



U.S. says Chinese military stole masses of Americans' data

By ERIC TUCKER
and MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Four members of the Chinese military have been charged with breaking into the computer networks of the Equifax credit reporting agency and stealing the personal information of tens of millions of Americans, the Justice Department said Monday, blaming Beijing for one of the largest hacks in history to target consumer data.

The hackers in the 2017 breach stole the personal information of roughly 145 million Americans, collecting names, addresses, Social Security and driver's license numbers and other data stored in the company's databases.

The intrusion damaged the company's reputation and underscored China's increasingly aggressive and sophisticated intelligence-gathering methods.

"The scale of the theft was staggering," Attorney General William Barr said Monday in announcing the indictment. "This theft not only caused significant financial damage to Equifax, but invaded the privacy of many millions of Americans, and imposed substantial costs and burdens on them as they have had to take measures to protect against identity theft."



Attorney General William Barr speaks during a news conference, Monday, Feb. 10, 2020, at the Justice Department in Washington, as Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General Seth Ducharm looks on.

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Melania Trump asks governors' spouses to tackle cyberassault

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Melania Trump on Monday cited the influence of "Achy Breaky Heart" singer Billy Ray Cyrus as she asked spouses of the nation's governors to address cyberassault in their states.

"I know the many issues associated with online safety will be hard to stop, but there is a need now more than ever to teach our children healthy behavior to secure a safer future for all of them," the first lady said before she sat down with the spouses for a cozy lunch in the White House Blue Room.

Online safety is one of three components of the first lady's "Be Best" youth initiative. She and Cyrus met last November at the



First lady Melania Trump sits down at her table after speaking during the Governors' Spouses' luncheon in the Blue Room of the White House in Washington, Monday, Feb. 10, 2020.

Associated Press

White House, where he introduced her to the Smiths, of Manchester, Tennessee. Sixteen-year-old Channing Smith took his life in September 2019 after the high school junior found out that

intimate messages he exchanged with a boy had been spread across social media by classmates. At the time, Channing had not been public about his sexuality.

"He was so ashamed and felt so hopeless that Channing committed suicide," Mrs. Trump said. "Since their tragic loss, the Smith family has been using their grief to partner with influencers such as Billy Ray Cyrus to educate people about the dangers of cyberassault."

Cyrus, who achieved notoriety with the 1992 hit, "Achy Breaky Heart," performed at Channing's memorial service.

The first lady's focus on negative online behavior comes as her husband, President Donald Trump, uses his Twitter account to go after opponents. He has spent the days since his acquittal last week in the Senate impeachment trial sending belittling tweets about a handful of lawmakers who voted against

him. Mrs. Trump in the past has said she is mindful that people are skeptical of her focus on online bullying because of her husband's behavior.

But she has said she won't be deterred from her goal of helping children and the next generation.

"I would like to take this time to ask that you and your spouses consider addressing this issue in your own home states so that no family will have to suffer from a loss like the Smiths," she told the spouses, who accompanied many of America's governors to Washington for their annual winter meeting and White House visit.

She asked them to help "promote values of encouragement, kindness, compassion and respect." □

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U.S. says Chinese military stole masses of Americans' data

Continued from Front

The case is the latest U.S. accusation against Chinese hackers suspected of breaching networks of American corporations, including steel manufacturers, a hotel chain and a health insurer. It comes as the Trump administration has warned against what it sees as the growing political and economic influence of China, and efforts by Beijing to collect data for financial and intelligence purposes and to steal research and innovation. The indictment arrives at a delicate time in relations between Washington and Beijing. Even as President Donald Trump points to a preliminary trade pact with China as evidence of his ability to work with the Communist government, other members of his administration have been warning against cybersecurity and surveillance risks posed by China, especially as the tech giant Huawei seeks to become part of new, high-speed 5G wireless networks across the globe. Experts and U.S. officials say the Equifax theft is consistent with the Chinese government's interest in accumulating as much information about Americans as possible. The data can be used by China to target U.S. government officials and ordinary citizens, including possible spies, and to find weaknesses and vulnerabilities that can be exploited — such as for purposes of blackmail. The FBI has not seen that happen yet in this case, said Deputy Director David Bowdich, though he said it "doesn't mean it will or will not happen in the future." "We have to be able to recognize that as a coun-

terintelligence issue, not a cyber issue," said Bill Evanina, the U.S. government's top counterintelligence official. The four accused hackers are suspected members of the People's Liberation Army, an arm of the Chinese military that was blamed in 2014 for a series of intrusions into American corporations. Prosecutors say they exploited a software vulnerability to gain access to Equifax's computers, obtaining log-in credentials that they used to navigate databases and review records. They also took steps to cover their tracks, the indictment says, wiping log files on a daily basis and routing traffic through dozens of servers in nearly 20 countries.

Besides stealing personal information, the hackers also made off with some of the company's sensitive trade secrets, including database designs, law enforcement officials said. Equifax, headquartered in Atlanta, maintains a massive repository of consumer information that it sells to businesses looking to verify identities or assess creditworthiness. All told, the indictment says, the company holds information on hundreds of millions of people in America and abroad. The accused hackers are based in China and none is in custody. But U.S. officials nonetheless hope criminal charges can be a deterrent to foreign hackers and a warning to other countries that American law enforcement has the capability to pinpoint individual culprits. Even so, while China and the U.S. committed in 2015 to halt acts of cyber espionage against each other, the Equifax intrusion and others like it make

clear that Beijing has continued its operations. A spokesperson for the Chinese Embassy in Washington did not return an email seeking comment Monday. The case resembles a 2014 indictment by the Obama administration Justice Department that accused five members of the PLA of hacking into American corporations to steal trade secrets. U.S. authorities also suspect China in the massive 2015 breach of the federal Office of Personnel Management and of intrusions into the Marriott hotel chain and health insurer Anthem. Such hacks "seem to deliberately cast a wide net" so that Chinese intelligence analysts can get deep insight into the lives of



This July 21, 2012, file photo shows signage at the corporate headquarters of Equifax Inc. in Atlanta.

Associated Press

many Americans, said Ben Buchanan, a Georgetown University scholar and author of the upcoming book "The Hacker and the State." "This could be especially useful for counterintelligence purposes, like tracking American spies posted

to Beijing," Buchanan said. Barr, who at an event last week warned of Beijing's aspirations of economic dominance, said Monday that the U.S. has for years "witnessed China's voracious appetite for the personal data of Americans." □



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Doubts persist for Dem voters about female nominee in 2020

By **NICHOLAS RICCARDI, HANNAH FINGERHUT and MICHAEL CASEY**

Associated Press

PLYMOUTH, N.H. (AP) — In a perfect world, Susan Stepp, a 73-year-old retiree, would be voting vote for Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren in New Hampshire's Democratic presidential primary Tuesday, she says. But that won't be happening.

"I am not sure a woman is the best candidate to go up against Trump," Stepp said recently as she stood in the back of a conference room listening to tech entrepreneur Andrew Yang as part of her hunt for the best candidate to challenge the Republican incumbent. Stepp's concern has coursed through the Democratic primary for months, registering in polling, interviews and, now, the first votes cast. In Iowa's caucuses last Monday, many Democrats did not prioritize breaking the gender barrier to the Oval Office and they viewed being a woman as a hindrance rather than an advantage in the race.

Only about one-third of Iowa caucusgoers backed a female candidate. Topping the caucus field were two men, former South Bend, Indiana, mayor Pete Buttigieg and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders. Women were only slightly more likely than men to back one of the three women in the race, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of more than 3,000 Iowa voters.

Most Iowa Democrats said it was important for a woman to be president in their lifetimes. But many voters, including about half of all women, said a female nominee would have a harder time beating Donald Trump in November.

"He will just use that against her, like he did Hillary," Stepp said, looking back to Trump's 2016 race against Hillary Clinton in 2016. "He doesn't debate. He just insults. I don't think he would have that same effect if he went up against a strong man." Stepp said she plans to vote for Sanders.

Those perceptions present an undeniable headwind for the women in the race, who have spent months



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., left, and Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., right, stand on stage Friday, Feb. 7, 2020, before the start of a Democratic presidential primary debate hosted by ABC News, Apple News, and WMUR-TV at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, N.H.

Associated Press

making the case that a woman can win. As they seek success in New Hampshire, both Warren and Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar must work to energize voters about the chance to make history and persuade them it is possible this year, in this race against this pres-

ident.

"In 2020, we can and should have a woman for president," Warren said at a CNN town hall this past week, days after taking third in Iowa. Klobuchar came in fifth. The Associated Press has not called a winner in the Iowa caucus

because the race is too close to call.

Iowans appeared open to that message. Most Democratic voters in the state, 72%, said they thought it is important for the U.S. to elect a woman president in their lifetimes, and that included roughly two-thirds of men.

But most were resolved to put it off for another election. That was true of men and women. The survey found 34% of women voted for Warren, Klobuchar or the longshot candidacy of Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, compared with 28% of men.

Overall, many Democratic voters thought it would be harder for a woman to beat Trump. About half of women said they thought a female nominee would have a harder time, compared with about 4 in 10 men. Men who harbored that concern were significantly less likely to vote for a woman than a man. □



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Gunman dead, 2 officers hurt in shooting at Arkansas Walmart



Forrest City, Ark., Mayor Cedric Williams, left, holds a news conference after two police officers were wounded and a gunman was killed in an exchange of gunfire at a Walmart store in eastern Arkansas Monday morning Feb. 10, 2020.

Associated Press

By **ADRIAN SAINZ**
Associated Press

FORREST CITY, Ark. (AP) — Two police officers were wounded and a gunman was killed Monday morning in an exchange of gunfire at a Walmart store in eastern Arkansas, authorities said.

Forrest City Police Chief Deon Lee said one of the officers was taken to a hospital about 45 miles (70 kilometers) to the east in Memphis where he was in surgery, and the initial prognosis is "he's going to be OK."

The officers responded to the Forrest City Walmart after someone called police to report a man who was making threats and was "kind of talking out of his head," Lee said at a news conference Monday afternoon. Arkansas State Police Spokesman Bill Sadler said local authorities have

identified the suspect as Bobby Joe Gibbs, 40, of Forrest City, though the state crime lab has yet not confirmed his identity. Lee identified the injured officers as Lt. Eric Varner and Detective Eugene Watlington. Both are assigned to the criminal investigation department and neither was wearing a bullet-resistant vest, Lee said.

The mayor heaped praise on the officers.

"Due to their heroism and quick response, no civilians were injured," Forrest City Mayor Cedric Williams said. Walmart spokesman Scott Pope said the company was helping with the police investigation. Walmart is based in Bentonville, Arkansas. Once the Arkansas State Police Criminal Investigation Division completes its investigation of the shooting, it will forward the case file to the local prose-

cutor to review the officers' use of deadly force.

Tammy Priddy, 57, works at Simmons Eye Center in the Walmart. She said she was preparing patient records for the day when she heard eight shots. She said she hid under a counter in the lab until the gunshots stopped. "The first two shots kind of startled me, and then a co-worker came in and said it was gunfire," Priddy said. She and a coworker ran from the building and officers outside the Walmart ordered her to get as far away from the building as possible. She was not injured. Police formed a perimeter with yellow crime scene tape around the Walmart parking lot after the shooting. Police cars with flashing lights blocked roads to the store. The store was closed and employees were sent home. A small strip mall and two gas sta-

tions saw no business Monday afternoon, as they were within the police perimeter.

Mary Martin, who said she was Gibbs' aunt, went to the Walmart after she heard about the shooting. She said Gibbs didn't have a job, but had previously worked as a DJ.

"He was a good person. He loved his family," she said. When asked about the description of Gibbs "talking out of his head" at the store, Martin responded: "That doesn't sound like Bobby." It's not the first time in recent months that a

Walmart store has been the scene of a shooting. A man was injured in a shooting at a Walmart in Memphis earlier this month, three people were fatally shot at a Walmart in Duncan, Oklahoma, in November, and a gunman killed 22 people at a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, on Aug. 3.

The retailer came under criticism for having insufficient security at the El Paso store on that day and has since quietly expanded security at all its stores in the city to include an armed off-duty police officer and a security guard. □

Pentagon: 109 troops suffer brain injuries from Iran strike

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of U.S. service members diagnosed with traumatic brain injuries has shot up to more than 100, the Pentagon said Monday, as more troops suffer the aftereffects of the Iranian ballistic missile attack early last month in Iraq.

The department said the latest total is 109 military members who have been treated for mild TBI, a significant increase over the 64 reported a little over a week ago.

The number of injuries has been steadily increasing since the Pentagon began releasing data on the injuries about a week after the Jan. 8 attack at al-Asad Air Base in Iraq. Pentagon officials have warned that the number would continue to change.

The department said 76 of the service members have returned to duty, while 26 are in Germany or the United States for treatment, and another seven are on their way from Iraq to Germany for evaluation and treatment.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper told Pentagon reporters more than a week ago that the department was studying ways to prevent brain injuries on the battlefield and to improve diagnosis and treatment.

Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said it's possible, in some cases, that symptoms of TBI from the Iranian missile attack won't become apparent for a year or two. He said the Army is in the early stages of diagnosis and therapy for the troops. □

Trump's \$4.8 trillion budget proposal revisits rejected cuts

By **ANDREW TAYLOR**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump unveiled a \$4.8 trillion election year budget plan on Monday that recycles deep, previously rejected cuts to domestic programs like food stamps, Medicaid, and housing as the recipe for wrestling the federal budget back into balance. Trump's fiscal 2021 plan promises the government's deficit will crest above \$1 trillion only for the current budget year before steadily decreasing to more manageable levels, but only by relying on optimistic economic projections, dramatically scaled-back military operations overseas, and proposed cuts to agency budgets that run directly opposite to two previous budget deals signed by Trump.

The budget "sets the course for a future of continued American dominance and prosperity," Trump said in a message accompanying the document.

"There is optimism that was not here before 63 million Americans asked me to work for them and drain the swamp," Trump said. "For decades, Washington elites told us that Americans had no choice but to accept stagnation, decay, and decline. We proved them wrong. Our economy is strong once more." In a White House appearance, Trump said, "The plan had no chance even before Trump's impeachment scorched Washington. Its cuts to food stamps, farm subsidies, subsidized housing for the poor, Medicaid and student loans couldn't pass when Republicans controlled Congress, much less now with liberal House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., setting the agenda."

Trump's budget follows a familiar formula that exempts seniors from politically toxic cuts to Medicare and Social Security while targeting benefit safety net programs for the poor, domestic programs like clean energy and student loan subsidies. It again proposes

to dramatically slash funding for overseas military operations to save \$567 billion over 10 years but adds \$1.5 trillion over the same time

Environmental Protection Agency and taking about \$900 billion out of Medicaid over a decade are also nonstarters on Capitol Hill,

borrow 22 cents of every dollar it spends. The White House plan proposes \$4.4 trillion in spending cuts over the coming decade.

states, such as an increase to \$250 million to restore Florida's Everglades and a move to finally abandon a multibillion-dollar, never-used nuclear waste dump that's political poison in Nevada.

The Trump budget also promises a \$3 billion increase — to \$25 billion — for NASA in hopes of returning astronauts to the moon and on to Mars. It touts a beefed-up, 10-year, \$1 trillion infrastructure proposal, but \$800 billion of that comes through existing surface transportation programs. It contains a modest parental leave plan championed by first daughter Ivanka Trump and includes \$135 billion in savings over the coming decade as part of an unspecified set-aside to tackle the high cost of prescription drugs this year. Trump's U.S.-Mexico border wall would receive a \$2 billion appropriation, more than provided by Congress but less than the \$8 billion requested last year. Trump has enough wall money on hand to build 1000 miles (1,600 kilometers) of wall, a senior administration official said, most of it obtained by exploiting his budget transfer powers. The official requested anonymity to discuss the budget before it is made public.

The reduced wall request could ease the way for action on appropriations bills in the GOP-held Senate, where a fight over last year's far larger wall request stalled work on the annual spending bills for months. Trump has proposed modest adjustments to eligibility for Social Security disability benefits, and he's proposed cuts to Medicare providers such as hospitals, but the real cost driver of Medicare and Social Security is the ongoing retirement surge of the baby boom generation and health care costs that continue to outpace inflation.

With Medicare and Social Security largely off the table, Trump has instead focused on Medicaid, which provides care to more than 70 million poor and disabled people. □



President Donald Trump's budget request for fiscal year 2021 arrives at the House Budget Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington, Monday, Feb. 10, 2020.

Associated Press

frame to make his 2017 tax cuts permanent law.

Trump's proposal would cut \$465 billion from Medicare providers such as hospitals, which prompted howls from Democrats such as former Vice President Joe Biden, who said it "eviscerates Medicare," while top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer of New York said Trump is planning to "rip away health care from millions of Americans" with cuts to Medicare and the Medicaid health program for the poor.

Trump's GOP allies generally issued only faint praise if commenting at all. Senate Budget Committee Chairman Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., called it "just a list of suggestions" while top House Budget Committee Republican Steve Womack of Arkansas took aim at its rosy predictions of economic growth and lower interest rates, both of which help Trump's budget add up.

Trump's budget would also shred last year's hard-won budget deal between the White House and Pelosi by imposing an immediate 5% cut to non-defense agency budgets passed by Congress. Slashing cuts to the

but both the White House and Democrats are hopeful of progress this spring on prescription drug prices.

The Trump budget is a blueprint written under Washington rules as if he could enact it without congressional approval. It relies on rosy economic projections of 2.8% economic growth this year and 3% over the long term — in addition to fanciful claims of future cuts to domestic programs — to show that it is possible to bend the deficit curve in the right direction.

The economy grew by 2.1% last year and Congress spent much of the past decade reversing agency spending cuts imposed by a failed 2011 budget pact. That sleight of hand enables Trump to promise to whittle down a \$1.08 trillion budget deficit for the ongoing budget year and a \$966 billion deficit gap in the 2021 fiscal year starting Oct. 1 to \$261 billion in 2030. Balance would come in 15 years. The reality is that no one — Trump, the Democratic-controlled House or the GOP-held Senate — has any interest in tackling a chronic budget gap that forces the government to

Trump's reelection campaign, meanwhile, is focused on the economy and the historically low jobless rate while ignoring the government's red ink.

Ever since his days as a presidential candidate, Trump has been promising a health care plan. The budget repeats that promise but offers few details. It lays out a "health reform vision" that calls for better care at lower cost and protecting people with preexisting medical conditions. Trump has also signed two broader budget deals worked out by Democrats and Republicans to get rid of spending cuts left over from a failed 2011 budget accord. The result has been eye-popping spending levels for defense — to about \$750 billion this year — and significant gains for domestic programs favored by Democrats. Trump's new budget essentially freezes defense at current levels while proposing a 3% military pay hike.

The White House hasn't done much to draw attention to this year's budget release, though Trump has revealed initiatives of interest to key 2020 battleground

Maryland to unveil statues of Tubman, Douglass in Capitol

By BRIAN WITTE

Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) —

At a time when states are debating the removal of Confederate monuments, Maryland is adding bronze statues of two of the state's famous black historical figures to the Maryland State House.

The statues of abolitionists Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass will be unveiled Monday night in the Old House Chamber, the room where slavery was abolished in Maryland in 1864.

"It's a really incredible, incredible moment," Senate President Bill Ferguson said, as he told senators about the upcoming event last month.

While the commissioning of the statues was put in motion several years ago, their arrival coincides with new leadership in the state legislature, including Maryland's first black and first fe-

male speaker of the House and the first new Senate president in more than three decades.

Tubman escaped from slavery to become a leading abolitionist who helped slaves escape through the Underground Railroad. Douglass also escaped slavery on Maryland's Eastern Shore. He went on to become an author, speaker, abolitionist and supporter of women's rights. His autobiography, published in 1845, was a best-seller that helped fuel the abolitionist movement.

The statues aren't the only recent examples of the state taking steps to reflect its rich black history.

Last month, a portrait of a black female lawmaker replaced one of a white governor who had been on the wall for 115 years. The painting of Verda Welcome, who was elected to the state Senate in 1962, is the first portrait of a black

person to adorn the Maryland's Senate walls.

During the unveiling ceremony, Ferguson, who became Senate president last month, recalled a letter he received from an 8th grader in Baltimore several years ago. The student wrote she was saddened she did not see anyone who looked like her in the paintings that decorate the State House.

"We've heard a lot about change in these chambers over the last few days, and portraits are, I admit, less impactful than our elected leaders, but the public display of portraits is meaningful," State Archivist Tim Baker said during the ceremony. "Images have an importance that transcends the painted canvas."

Mary Sue Welcome, the late senator's daughter, said during the unveiling of her mother's portrait that she was struck by how much more diverse the leg-



A portrait of former Maryland state Sen. Verda Welcome is shown in a photograph taken on Feb. 7, 2020 in the Maryland Senate in Annapolis, Md.

Associated Press

islative body has become since her mother served in office. "When I was a little girl I used to come to these chambers — and to the one across the hall — and I would look around and the color was a lot different than it is now," Welcome said. "The coloration is so absolutely beautiful now."

Maryland also has removed painful reminders of its past in recent years.

In 2017, the state removed a statue of Roger B. Taney, the U.S. Supreme Court justice who wrote the 1857 Dred Scott decision that upheld slavery and denied citizenship to African Americans. □

Pennsylvania sues Juul over marketing e-cigarettes to teens

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) —

The Pennsylvania attorney general's office sued electronic cigarette manufacturer Juul Labs Inc. on Monday over how its products are marketed and sold to teenagers.

The agency is seeking an injunction from Philadelphia courts to halt Juul's e-cigarette sales in Pennsylvania or force it to dramatically change business practices.

Nearly a quarter of high school students in Pennsylvania report using e-cigarettes, according to the suit.

Juul Labs Inc. spokesman Austin Finan said the company has not reviewed the complaint but wants to focus on combating underage use and converting adult smokers from traditional cigarettes.

Shapiro, a Democrat, said in a statement that Juul "knowingly targeted young people with tactics similar

to the tobacco companies' playbook. There is no proof these e-cigarettes are safe and until there is, we need to get Juul products off shelves and out of the hands of young people."

Similar lawsuits have been filed in other states, including New York, Minnesota and California.

The lawsuits come as health officials are investigating deaths and illnesses tied to some vaping products. Federal officials have identified a thickening agent added to illicit THC vaping liquids as the culprit behind the "vast majority" of the lung injuries.

There have been 61 confirmed and 59 probable cases of vaping products associated lung injury in Pennsylvania, with patients typically in their mid-20s, according to the state Health Department. There also has been one death in the state. □



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Fierce storm causes deaths, damage and delays across Europe

By **FRANK JORDANS**
and **PAN PYLAS**

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — A storm battered Europe with hurricane-force winds and heavy rains, killing at least seven people and causing severe travel disruptions as it moved eastward across the continent Monday and bore down on Germany.

After striking Britain and Ireland on Sunday, the storm moved on, leaving a trail of damage including power cuts for tens of thousands of homes across Europe.

A woman and her 15-year-old daughter died in Poland after the storm ripped off the roof of a ski rental equipment building in the mountain resort of Bukowina Tatrzańska and sent it hurtling onto people standing near a ski lift, police said. Three people also were injured in the incident. In Sweden, one man drowned after the boat he and another person were sailing in on the southern lake of Fegen capsized. The victim was washed ashore and later died. The other person is still missing, according to the Aftonbladet daily.

Two men, one in the north of Slovenia and another in southern England, also died after their cars were hit by falling trees. And in



A view of a Toyota car in a sinkhole which appeared overnight in the aftermath of Storm Ciara, in Brentwood, England, Monday, Feb. 10, 2020.

Associated Press

Germany, a driver died after crashing his truck into a trailer parked by workers clearing storm debris off a highway in the southern state of Hesse.

Police in the Czech Republic said the storm likely was to blame for a car accident that killed the man driving and injured a woman passenger. Investigators think a tree fell on the car, which skidded off the road and overturned.

The number of Czech households without electricity reached 290,000,

according to power company CEZ. Britain, which bore the brunt of the storm on Sunday, was assessing the damage and working to get power restored to 20,000 homes. However, for parts of northern England and Scotland, the respite is set to be brief, with forecasts of blizzards and snow. Many parts of the country were mopping up after a month and a half's rain fell in just 24 hours in some places and rivers burst their banks. Though 360 flood warnings have been removed as the

storm moves on, around 75 remain in place across the country.

The River Irwell burst its banks in northwest England, prompting authorities to evacuate residents. And in the Scottish town of Hawick, which borders England, a guest house and bistro collapsed into the raging River Teviot. No one was injured.

In another dramatic scene, a driver managed to escape unhurt in the early hours of Monday when a car fell nose-first into a sink-

hole in a residential street in the town of Brentwood, east of London. Six properties had to be evacuated due to the unstable ground that is said to have been linked to a partially collapsed sewer. The emergency services made the scene safe just before daybreak. The British government said it was offering financial compensation through its emergency Bellwin scheme.

Under the scheme, local authorities dealing with the storm can apply to have certain costs reimbursed. Transport authorities were also working hard to clear up the mess. Network Rail, which runs the country's rail infrastructure, said thousands of engineers had "battled horrendous conditions" after the storm blew trees, sheds, roofs and even trampolines onto the tracks.

Airlines operating to and from U.K. airports were still being affected by the storm, with more than 100 flights canceled.

"We're getting in touch with those affected, and have brought in extra customer teams to help them with a range of options including a full refund or an alternative flight between now and Thursday," British Airways said in a statement. □



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson leaves 10 Downing Street in London, to attend the weekly Prime Minister's Questions at the Houses of Parliament, in London, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020.

Associated Press

By **JILL LAWLESS**
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The British government said Monday it is seriously studying the feasibility of a bridge

between Scotland and Northern Ireland, an audacious idea that has been floated by Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Johnson's spokesman, James Slack,

A bridge too far? U.K. looks at linking Scotland, N. Ireland

said the proposal was being taken seriously and "a range of officials" were studying it.

"There is a proper piece of work being undertaken into this idea," he said. "The PM is ambitious in terms of infrastructure projects."

Johnson has promised to build major new infrastructure to better connect parts of the U.K. in the wake of Britain's divisive exit from the European Union. He also has vowed to boost regions outside the economically dominant southeast of England. He has mentioned the bridge idea several times,

and claimed it would "only cost about 15 billion pounds" (\$20 billion).

But engineers say spanning the deep and stormy Irish Sea would be difficult. The distance is 12 miles (19 kilometers) at its narrowest; one of the most likely routes for a bridge, between Larne in Northern Ireland and Portpatrick in Scotland, is about 28 miles (45 kilometers).

The water is up to 1,000 feet (300 meters) deep and the sea bed holds thousands of unexploded bombs dumped by Britain's defense ministry after World War II.

Johnson has a mixed track record with big projects. As mayor of London between 2008 and 2016 he touted a "Boris Island" airport in the River Thames estuary and a lush "garden bridge" in the middle of the city. Neither was ever built.

Ian Firth, a fellow at the Institution of Civil Engineers, said building a Scotland-Northern Ireland bridge had "a huge number of technical challenges" but was probably achievable. "At the end of the day it's about money," he said. "Anything is possible if you throw enough money at it." □

German politics upended as Merkel's heir apparent quits

By **FRANK JORDANS**
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Chancellor Angela Merkel's heir apparent shook up German politics Monday by declaring she would step down as the governing party's leader and not run for chancellor, fueling uncertainty in the country seen as Europe's anchor of stability amid Brexit and pressure from the far right. Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, whose flagging support dropped further after regional Christian Democratic Union lawmakers ignored the party's instructions, told senior CDU members she would not seek the chancellorship in next year's decision. The surprise decision upended Merkel's plans to hand Kramp-Karrenbauer the reins of power after more than 15 years as chancellor. "I took note of this decision with the utmost respect, but I also say that I regret it," Merkel told reporters, thanking Kramp-Karrenbauer for her work and for agreeing to stay on until a new party leader is chosen. Kramp-Karrenbauer plans to remain in her role as Germany's defense minister.

The announcement followed days of in-fighting within the party over the election of a governor in the state of Thuringia. Chris-

tian Democratic Union legislators there voted with the far-right Alternative for Germany party (AfD) last week to oust a left-wing incumbent. The CDU representatives not only defied Kramp-Karrenbauer's advance appeals and undermined her leadership, but broke what is widely regarded as a taboo in post-war German politics around cooperating with extremist parties.

"The AfD stands against everything we as the CDU represent," Kramp-Karrenbauer told reporters Monday in Berlin.

Manfred Weber, a German member of the European Union parliament who leads a center-right bloc in the EU legislature, told daily newspaper Welt that the situation in Thuringia reflected a Europe that "is in a phase of growing instability; politics is becoming more serious."

"In general, it is a sign of growing instability among the parties of the middle all across Europe. The parties of the middle must draw their red line to those with radical right tendencies," Weber said. "This approach from Kramp-Karrenbauer was and is correct." Merkel has said she will not run for a fifth term in Germany's next general election, which is now scheduled for fall 2021.

But any shift to the right by the Christian Democrats could trigger a breakup of Merkel's federal coalition with the center-left Social Democrats and increase the chances of an early national election. "If it's up to me, it won't have any effect on the stability of the grand coalition," Kramp-Karrenbauer said after announcing her planned withdrawal. Florian Hense, an analyst at Hamburg-based private bank Berenberg, said the Social Democrats "would have little to gain from provoking early elections." But leading figures in Merkel's party expressed concerns about fallout from the announcement.

Peter Altmaier, Germany's economy minister and a close Merkel ally, said the Christian Democrats were in "an unusually serious situation." Recent polls had Merkel's conservative block at about 28% support nationally, followed by the left-leaning Greens at about 22%. The Social Democrats are struggling with only about 14% support, about the same as the far-right Alternative for Germany.

Among the names currently being bandied around as future CDU party leaders are Health Minister Jens Spahn and Friedrich Merz, who were beaten to the



German Chancellor Angela Merkel, right, and CDU party chairwoman and Defense Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, left, attend a party's board meeting at the headquarters in Berlin, Germany, Monday, Feb. 10, 2020.

Associated Press

leadership by Kramp-Karrenbauer in 2018. Armin Laschet, the governor of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany's most populous state, is also being mentioned as a possible contender.

While Spahn and Laschet are considered centrists, Merz has tried to appeal to the conservative wing of the party that has flirted with the far-right Alternative for Germany. A lawyer once tipped to lead the party in the early 2000s, Merz was sidelined by Merkel before she became chancellor in 2005.

Bavarian governor Markus Soeder, the leader of the Christian Social Union, the Bavarian-only sister party to Merkel's CDU, is also the focus of some speculation. Merkel's spokesman Stefan Seibert told reporters in Berlin that she stood by her decision not to run for a fifth term in 2021, despite the latest development.

The Alternative for Germany welcomed Kramp-Karrenbauer's resignation, as did Germany's former domestic intelligence head, Hans-Georg Maassen, a vocal figure on the right of Merkel's party since his ouster as Germany's spy chief in 2018.

Alternative for Germany has established itself as a powerful far-right force since its founding in 2013, taking double-digit shares of the vote in regional and national elections. Its success has complicated Germany's political tradition of governing with multi-party coalitions, as most of its rivals have ruled out working with Alternative for Germany. The far-right party has successfully wielded populist tactics, emphasizing national self-interest and immigration controls while tolerating anti-Semitism and historical revisionism among its members. □

Faulty app exposes millions of Israeli voters' data

By **ILAN BEN ZION**
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — A security breach in an app used by Israel's ruling conservative party has exposed the personal information of nearly 6.5 million Israelis to hackers, a cybersecurity expert said Monday.

The application is used for campaign management by the Likud party, headed by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

News of the data breach comes just weeks before Israelis go to the polls for the third time in under a

year. Netanyahu is seeking reelection for a fourth consecutive term as premier on March 2 after two elections in 2019 yielded inconclusive results.

The Likud party acknowledged that it had "thwarted an attempt" to damage a digital platform used to recruit party supporters on election day. The party did not respond to inquiries about the data breach.

The discovery is particularly embarrassing for the Likud party after it waged a smear campaign last year

against Netanyahu's main opponent, Blue and White party leader Benny Gantz, claiming the former army chief's phone had been hacked by Iranian intelligence.

The information included the names, addresses, ID numbers, and polling stations of eligible Israeli voters — and in some cases their phone number, gender and whether they were potential Likud voters.

The voter roll data was exposed due to faulty security on an applica-

tion the Likud Party used called Elector, which was designed by the Israeli software company Feedback.

Noam Rotem, an Israeli security researcher who first revealed the data breach on his podcast "Cyber Cyber," said he received an anonymous tip from a hacker, which he later confirmed independently. Rotem said that while it remained uncertain whether Israelis' personal data had been exploited, "it is very likely to assume that we are not the only ones

with access to this information."

"It was very easy to get the data. Anyone with a regular web browser could have done it," he told The Associated Press.

Israeli political parties receive the personal data of voters from the the Central Elections Committee ahead of elections for internal campaign purposes on condition that the data remains private.

Neither Feedback nor Elector's app designer Tzur Yamin responded to requests for comment. □

Deluge in Australia drenches fires and eases 3-year drought

By NICK PERRY

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Drought, wildfires and now flooding have given Australia's weather an almost Biblical feel this year.

The good news is that a recent deluge in eastern parts of the country has drenched deadly fires and helped ease a crippling drought.

But experts say it will take some time yet to know to what extent the rainfall has replenished dried-up rivers and quenched parched soil in some inland areas most affected by the 3-year drought.

Quentin Grafton, an economics professor and water expert at Australian National University in Canberra, said the rain had broken



A resident inspects sea foam brought by waves approaching on beach front houses after heavy rain and storms at Collaroy in Sydney's Northern Beaches, Monday, February 10, 2020.

Associated Press

even months." In all, Australia's wildfires killed at least 33 people and destroyed more than 3,000 homes.

The fires began causing widespread destruction toward the end of 2019, which was both the hottest and driest year in Australia's recorded history, according to the Bureau of Meteorology.

During the deluge over recent days, coastal areas have experienced some of the heaviest rainfalls, which has caused flash flooding in some places. Sydney, the central coast and the Blue Mountains received up to 400 millimeters (16 inches) since Friday, representing some of the heaviest falls in decades.

Dams in the greater Sydney area were more than 64% full on Monday after being only 42% full a week earlier, according to officials. More rain is forecast over the coming days.

But not everybody was ready to begin celebrating. Darryl Cowie, the owner of the Burke & Wills Menindee Motel in the Outback town of Menindee, said they'd received only a small amount of rain overnight.

"The ground was damp, but it's drying out again now," he said. "It's not enough to do anything."

Cowie said he has been serving guests bottled water for about a year now, ever since the tap water became discolored and salty tasting due to the drought. He said the town has since switched to bore water, which has improved the quality.

"There are clouds that have come past, but by the time they reach us, they're empty," he said. "We're keeping our fingers crossed. Sydney is coping it, but it's a long way from here." □



In this March 4, 2019, file photo, a Hindu holy man smokes marijuana at the courtyard of the Pashupatinath Temple during Shivaratri festival in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Associated Press

Nepal lawmakers seek to legalize growing, using marijuana

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)

— Ruling party lawmakers have proposed legalizing marijuana in Nepal, where it has been used for generations and was famed during the counterculture '60s.

Forty-six members of the ruling Communist Party of Nepal filed the proposal in Parliament to legalize the production and use of marijuana, party lawmaker Birod Khatiwada said Monday.

He said the Himalayan country's mountainous terrain is suitable for the

crop and allowing farmers to grow it would greatly benefit those who are impoverished.

"Legalizing marijuana will help the poor farmers and since most of the Western world, which was reason for making it illegal in the first place, have already ended the prohibition, Nepal should also lift the ban," Khatiwada said.

The proposal must be debated in Parliament before any changes are made to existing laws. Nepal was famed for use of marijuana and other nar-

cotics in the 1960s when hippies made their way to Nepal. Shops and tea houses used advertise and sell it legally. Nepal made it illegal in 1976 with the Narcotic Drugs Control Act. Users are jailed for a month while traffickers are sent to prison for up to 10 years.

Marijuana have been used in Nepal for generations. Although it is illegal, it is almost freely smoked during the festival of the Hindu god Shiva, which is scheduled for later this month. □

the drought in some towns but had not fallen evenly across all the affected areas.

"At this stage, it's very good news, and certainly much more than people could have wished for or expected," he said of the rainfall. "There are some very happy people."

Grafton said drought had badly affected an area of more than 1.5 million square kilometers (580,000 square miles), which is larger than the country of Ethiopia. He said monitoring on major rivers over the coming days should provide a clearer picture of how much the rain has helped. Fire authorities had a reason to celebrate, with many wildfires being extinguished or significantly dampened down by the rain. On Saturday, authorities declared the Currowan Fire south of Sydney was finally out after destroying more than 300 homes and razing 500,000 hectares (1.2 million acres) over two-and-a-half months.

"This is the most positive news we've had in some time," the New South Wales Rural Fire Service tweeted on Monday. "The recent rainfall has assisted fire-fighters to put over 30 fires out since Friday. Some of these blazes have been burning for weeks and





In this photo taken Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020, young desert locusts that have not yet grown wings jump in the air as they are approached, as a visiting delegation from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) observes them, in the desert near Garowe, in the semi-autonomous Puntland region of Somalia.

Associated Press

U.N. warns of 'major shock' as Africa locust outbreak spreads

By CARA ANNA
Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Uganda scrambled to respond to the arrival of the biggest locust outbreak that parts of East Africa have seen in decades, while the United Nations warned Monday that "we simply cannot afford another major shock" to an already vulnerable region. An emergency government meeting hours after the locusts were spotted inside Uganda on Sunday decided to deploy military forces to help with ground-based pesticide spraying, while two planes for aerial spraying will arrive as soon as possible, a statement said. Aerial spraying is considered the only effective control.

The swarms of billions of locusts have been destroying crops in Kenya, which hasn't seen such an outbreak in 70 years, as well as Somalia and Ethiopia, which haven't seen this in a quarter-century. The insects have exploited favorable wet conditions after unusually heavy rains, and experts say climate change is expected to bring more of the same.

U.N. officials warn that immediate action is needed before more rainfall in the weeks ahead brings fresh vegetation to feed new generations of locusts. If left unchecked, their numbers could grow up to 500 times before drier weather

arrives, they say.

"There is the risk of a catastrophe," U.N. humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock told a briefing in New York on Monday, warning that a region where 12 million people already face severe food insecurity can't afford another jolt.

Without enough aerial spraying to stop the swarms, the locust outbreak could turn into a plague, "and when you have a plague, it takes years to control," Dominique Burgeon, emergency and resilience director with the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, told The Associated Press last week.

The outbreak also is moving toward South Sudan, where another several million people face hunger as the country struggles to emerge from civil war.

The U.N. has asked for \$76 million in immediate aid. So far just under \$20 million is in hand, officials said. The United States said Monday it has released \$800,000 and the European Union has released 1 million euros.

"The response today is not gonna work, unless there's a big scale-up," Lowcock said.

The locusts are eating the vegetation that supports vibrant herder communities in the region, and Kenyan Ambassador Lazarus Amayo warned of the "inherent risk of communal conflict over pastures." □

South Sudan's leader wins dubious 'spoiler of peace' award

By RODNEY MUHUMUZA

Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP)

— South Sudan President Salva Kiir on Monday was named the top "spoiler of peace" in a new award that seeks to shame him and others into taking serious steps to end bloody conflict in the world's youngest country.

Kiir and rival leader Riek Machar are under growing pressure to form a coalition government this month, the significant next step in a fragile peace deal signed in 2018 to end a five-year civil war that killed nearly 400,000 people.

The deadline has been extended twice and the international community is signaling impatience. The upcoming deadline is Feb. 22.

"It is for me totally unacceptable that we are still again close to the deadline of a new period that



South Sudan's President Salva Kiir arrives for the opening session of the 33rd African Union (AU) Summit at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020.

Associated Press

was declared, that there is no agreement on a number of issues," U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said over the weekend. "Respect your people."

Now a Uganda-based group, Atrocities Watch Africa, is citing Kiir and others for their roles in the conflict that also has displaced at least 2 million people. Many fled to

Uganda.

The "spoiler of peace" award citation accuses Kiir of being unwilling to compromise on major issues needed to form the coalition government. It also asserts that under his command and control, government-backed fighters killed thousands of people and committed atrocities such as looting and razing villages. □

Egypt moves toward toughening up draconian anti-terror law

By SAMY MAGDY

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's legislature on Monday gave its initial approval for toughening up already draconian anti-terrorism laws, with amendments that include life sentences and capital punishment for funding terrorism, the state-run news agency said.

The sweeping anti-terrorism law was enacted in August 2015. It established an extremely broad definition of terrorism, describing it in one article as any act that disturbs public order with force. Some charges, such as leading or organizing a terrorist group, carry the death penalty.

The law and the amendments are widely seen as part of an unprecedented crackdown on dissent waged by President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi since coming to power in 2013.

The original anti-terrorism law also included provisions



In this Feb. 13, 2016 file photo provided by Egypt's state news agency MENA, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, addresses parliament in Cairo, Egypt.

Associated Press

to protect Egyptian security forces from prosecution, establish stiffer prison sentences for terror-related offences, as well as heavy fines for those who publish "false news" and a special judicial circuit for terrorism cases.

Journalists who do not toe the government line could be punished under the law. The new amendments ex-

pand the definition for the crime of funding terrorist acts. These would now include providing a place for training one terrorist or more; giving them weapons or documents in any way or form; offering support and financing in order to help terrorists travel, even if the provider does not have a direct link to the terrorist crime. □

Puerto Rico's economy in limbo as governor rejects debt deal

By **DANICA COTO**

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Puerto Rico's fragile economy is facing an uncertain future after the island's governor rejected a settlement announced late Sunday with bondholders that would reduce the U.S. territory's public debt by 70%.

The settlement is the biggest one to date since the island's government announced in 2015 that it was unable to pay its more than \$70 billion public debt load and filed for the largest U.S. municipal bankruptcy in May 2017.

It's unclear whether the deal will become final, with Gov. Wanda Vázquez saying it places too heavy a burden on the island's retirees and noting that it still requires legislative approval. The deal also has to be approved by a federal judge overseeing a bankruptcy-like process for Puerto Rico. "If the bondholders receive better treatment in the bankruptcy process, so should retirees," she said. "This is an issue of basic justice." She said bondholders received new legal protections in amendments made to a September 2019 adjustment plan, but that re-



In this Aug. 21, 2019 file photo, Puerto Rico's Governor Wanda Vazquez holds a press conference to announce new administrative appointments at the governor's official residence La Fortaleza in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

tirees did not receive anything additional.

It's the latest clash between Vázquez and a federal control board overseeing Puerto Rico's finances, which reached the deal with several groups of bondholders to reduce the island's bond debt from some \$35 billion to roughly \$11 billion. Natalie Jaresko, the board's executive director, said the island's bankruptcy needs to be resolved.

"The new agreement is another step forward for Puerto Rico, one that gets the island much closer to ending bankruptcy and to the beginning of a true economic recovery," she said in a statement.

Board members did not respond to the governor's rejection of the settlement, and a board spokesman did not return a call for comment. The announcement comes as Puerto Rico

struggles to recover from Hurricane Maria, which hit as a Category 4 storm in 2017, and a series of strong earthquakes that have damaged or destroyed hundreds of buildings along the island's southern region. Over the weekend, Puerto Rico government officials including Vázquez accused the board of delaying approval to release funds to help those affected by the quakes, accusa-

tions that the board denied in a letter earlier on Sunday before it announced the debt deal. "Allegations that the...board has over 50 pending requests including for food, water and portable toilets are untrue," it said. "None of the ten requests received were for portable toilets or water. All requests were processed within hours of receipt."

Many have criticized Vázquez's administration over its response to the 6.4 earthquake that killed one person on Jan. 7 as heavy aftershocks keep further damaging buildings.

Meanwhile, Puerto Rico economist José Caraballo told The Associated Press that he worries the deal could threaten basic government services and leave the island without sufficient funds to respond to the pending needs from the hurricane and earthquakes. "The risk of a second bankruptcy and a prolonged recession is bigger than before," he said.

Puerto Rico is mired in a 13-year recession, and roughly half a million people have left the island in the past decade, fleeing from the economic crisis and the aftermath of the hurricane and earthquakes. □

Associated Press

Heavy rains, floods, mudslides paralyze parts of Sao Paulo

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) —

Heavy rains in Sao Paulo brought Brazil's most populous city nearly to a halt on Monday with floods, mudslides and enormous traffic jams.

"Since 3 a.m., in some areas it rained half of what was expected for the month of February," Sao Paulo Mayor Bruno Covas told the online news portal G1. The Tiete and Pinheiros rivers overflowed, flooding nearby highways and trapping drivers and passengers for hours.

Parts of the city received 100 mm (4 inches) of within three hours, swelling the Tiete River to its highest level in 15 years,



Trucks are stuck in a flooded street at the CEAGESP food market in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Monday, Feb. 10, 2020.

Associated Press

according to the state's infrastructure secretary.

One man who was unable to get to work on Monday morning had no choice but head back home.

Soon after arriving in his neighborhood, Gabriel

França, a 27-year-old electrical engineer, said he heard screams and ran out of his house, witnessing a mudslide that destroyed two nearby houses and trapped a little girl who was later rescued. □

Gastro outbreak forces Caribbean cruise ship to return to U.S.

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — A Caribbean Princess cruise was cut short following a gastrointestinal outbreak aboard the ship caused it to be denied entry to at least one island before it headed to its home port in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on Monday.

At least 299 passengers and 22 crew members aboard the ship operated by California-based Princess Cruise Lines Ltd. became sick, according to a statement from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"This is a highly unusual development and we share the disappointment of our guests," the company said in a statement to The Associated Press, adding that those affected had mild cases of gastrointestinal illness but that out of caution, it discontinued the cruise.

Meanwhile, the Health Ministry of Trinidad & Tobago said in a statement that it denied the ship entry as a precautionary measure given the outbreak.

The ship was carrying more than 3,000 passengers and more than 1,100 crew members.

It was on a two-week trip that began Feb. 2 and was scheduled to end Feb. 16. □

LOCAL



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NOORD — “Quality convinces”, says Bas de Groot, Managing Director of Tuscany Residence Aruba. “We differ from traditional builders, come on over and see for yourself.” At an A-location, designed in a European style with high-quality materials, on property land and with buying possibilities from condos to townhouses to villas, Tuscany Residence is your dream come true. And the safest investment. Recently they opened their model home fully designed and ready to convince you.

Within 2.000 feet of the Palm Beach area, which is the place to be in the island, and a 15-minute drive to Oranjestad, we find Tuscany Residence. The residence (total project contains +/- 180 units) offers luxurious Townhouses in beautiful Dutch design up to 2.098ft Property land and a total 1.582ft living space. Condos located in three buildings are a wonderful vacation escape or a great investment, it is up to you. What about amazing 2-Layer & 3-Layer Villas with 50m2 pool, stunning Dutch architecture and allure? The landscaping in front of the houses is taken care of, keeping the value of the project intact. There is 24-hours security by camera's and a night guard.

X-factors

There are many reasons to praise Tuscany Residence Aruba but we picked three that are most important. First one is the pre-construction price you will get when buying now, second bullet point is the low community fees per month in comparison to other properties on the island and third unique fact is that you own the land. One of the last opportunities to achieve property land in this area and even better within a residence that keeps your value up, you never know what your surroundings will be like when purchasing outside of a residence. “Furthermore we designed a layout with low rise buildings and different



types of residences. Yet still in the same style which is contemporary European in natural colors. It will never go out of fashion,” says Bas.

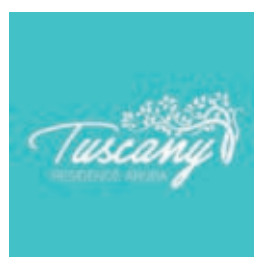
Tuscany Residence Aruba chose for European quality products to provide owners with the best durable purchase and low maintenance costs. “Windows and doors are from Mexim, originally a Belgium product, the concrete comes from The Netherlands, the bathrooms are delivered by Banjolux and the kitchen provided by Eurokitchen. All these suppliers are known for their high quality service and products and have their representative companies on the island too. We go 100 % for European standards meaning you will have a guarantee of a long-term relationship that is durable, eco-friendly and trustworthy,” Bas explains.

Unique Details

The design of the residences townhouses, condos and villas is modern but warm with exceptional details like the stick-out

window panes. “These provide shadow on the windows, preventing the strong heat of the sun coming in while maintaining the light flow.” Lots of windows and sliding doors make the light come in and because of the use of poured concrete walls the isolation is at its best. “Everyone is welcome to see the materials and construction themselves, we can show everything here at our model home. You may even pick your land.”

Are you looking for a safe, quiet, residential area where you will meet a mix of local and foreign owners? Do you feel for a warm community with amenities like wellness, gym, restaurants, pools and this all within a structure where the residence takes care of your property management while you are not here? Can the highest European quality and solid working structure take away your preoccupations while you are home? Than meet the people of Tuscany Residence, they are here to convince you with quality!☐



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Article by Etnia Nativa

WhatsApp us 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience!
Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



Native succulents flora of Aruba

Episode 56- LVI

ORANJESTAD — Aruba for being a small island generates an enormous amount of waste. We must realize that this entire waste was once on a container as import. Recycling is an essential action to reduce waste that will be otherwise dumped in the environment. Within this action two approaches have emerged as possible solutions. The first is down cycling and the other upcycling. In the former, the break down process is accelerated at a high cost and hardly sustainable if not all details are followed as planned and budgeted available applied as efficient necessary. The result must benefit nature and citizen as a result of the process, while in the latter all waste has a value that can be increased through creative intervention.



A skate board bench

Our island waste impasse deserves a creative solution and a pragmatic intervention. In our experiment with upcycling our initial design led to the emergence of our native living lab and atelier at Westpunt Aruba, known as Etnia Nativa. A project that incorporates recollected materials in during every phases of its construction process. The same was applied in the building of artifacts furniture and artworks which are part of the decoration, such as lamps, masks, shells and bones feathers and seeds etc. Upcycled art or upcycling art is currently inspiring many artists around the world and prevents tons of garbage

to reach dumping grounds.

Dumping must be seen and treated as a critical message regarding excessive consumption and environmental pollution. Transform waste such as paper, cardboard, wood, glass, plastics, metals and rubber into works of art that carries a message will impact the connoisseur. The concept, therefore, goes beyond the conventional recycling of materials by creating objects that exceed the economic, cultural and social value of the original product.

Continued on Page 15



Building with recycled materials



Bat Shaman. Art work made completely out of recollected materials

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Coming Soon: The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood and
Shalom Hair & Nail Bar

Native succulents flora of Aruba

Episode 56- LVI

Continued from Page 14

Transforming waste or recycle it into folk art is the creative expression of the human struggle toward civilization within a particular environment through the production of useful but aesthetic buildings and objects in the process of reducing waste.

Art has a role in cultural continuity and change. It is used to stabilize cultures by perpetuating the convictions of the identity and accomplishments of individuals and groups.

By calling folk art the "art of the people?"

The answer is not simple, for the subject is clogged with conjecture, controversy, and gaps in information.

Calling it native art makes it yet more confusing, however both differs from primitive art.

The scope of folk art is extremely broad, including the entire craft and creativity of the people.

Folk art is the creative expression of the human struggle toward civilization within a particular environment through the production of useful but aesthetic buildings and objects. □



Lamp covers made out of recycled metal sheets

Short history of the beginnings of baseball in Aruba

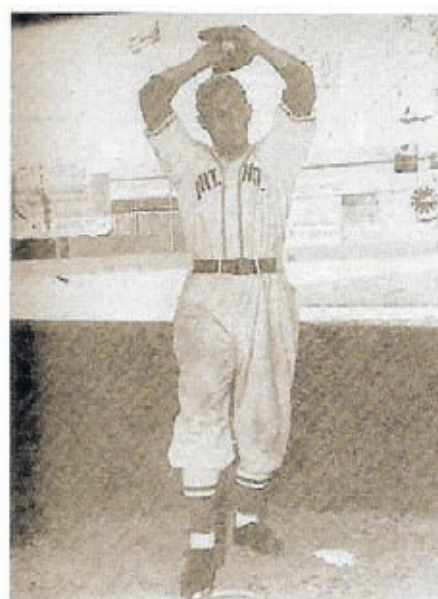
ORANJESTAD — Baseball was played on the island of Aruba in the 1930's, but only by United States expatriates working for LAGO and living inside the LAGO colony. Jim Bluejacket, the legendary US Indian who had played in two major league teams, worked for LAGO during 14 years and was a key factor in the growth of the popularity of the game in the colony. There is no record of Bluejacket ever playing outside the colony.

Outside the colony, the game of baseball was introduced to Aruba by Venezuelan immigrants and sailors on the Venezuelan fishing boats that used Aruba as their home port. They formed pick-up teams and played games on Sundays on an open field behind what is now the Court of Justice. One of the Venezuelans that comes to mind is Felix Garrido, grandfather of our current Prime-Minister.

In the late 30s the leader of this group was Raúl Aparicio, a cousin of Luis Aparicio who is now enshrined in the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. The Aparicios were evidently very good at sports. Raúl had two brothers who also played baseball, René and Roman. Rosendo, his only brother who did not play baseball became a professional soccer player in the Venezuelan league. Rosendo was nicknamed "Cabeza de oro" (golden head) for a memorable header he scored to win a game for his team. Interestingly, it was in Aruba that Luis Aparicio played his first game outside of Venezuela. This took place in 1950 when he played shortstop for the school he attended. Later he played for "Cabimas" in a doubleheader of the Venezuelan Western League. These official games of the league were authorized to be played in Aruba by the Professional Baseball Organization of Venezuela. Several others who played in those games have also been enshrined.

Luis Aparicio's father was the super popular Luis "El Grande" (the great one) after whom the baseball stadium in Maracaibo is named. He and his brother owned the professional baseball teams "Gavilanes" which later became the "Aguilas", and the "Cabimas".

In the early '40s, another group, mostly immigrants from the Dominican Republic also became very active with pickup teams. Some of these remained active in baseball well into the early '50s; as umpires, managers even as players. Among these were Nestor "Pantin" Guerrero who also had a musical band.



Perhaps not so coincidentally, many of Pantin's players were also musicians. Luthai Pantophlet who umpired many years was a well-known drummer. Gaston Hazel was a bongo player; José Bryson and the brothers Nicholson, Teddy and Julio, all played several instruments. In San Nicolas, baseball was played on the grounds next to where the LAGO Sport Park (now Laveist Sport Park) was officially inaugurated in March 1941.

During the WWII years, baseball got a big lift from the influx of Puerto Rican and US soldiers stationed here. As LAGO was playing a very important role in the struggle against Hitler, it was able to get all the sports equipment needed here to allow more people to participate.

In the '40s only the Lago Sports Park organized baseball championship games. The first teams to participate were Artraco, (Aruba Trading Co.), Esso Garage and Botica San Lucas. In 1945 Venezuelan employees of the Lago refinery participated under the name of "Cafenol", a very popular Venezuelan coffee brand. Two other groups of Venezuelan immigrants formed the teams "Cerveceria" (named after the iconic team Cerveceria Caracas), and "Venezuela", although not all members of these teams were Venezuelans. This was also the year that the team sponsored by Roxy Café started to play as "Dodgers".

Dodgers became the dominant baseball powerhouse till the 1950s. Other teams that entered the baseball scene in the late 1940s: Pepsi Cola (Oranjestad) and St. Thomas Boys (former students of St. Thomas College, Oranjestad). "Baby Ruth" in San Nicolas played initially under the name "Camel" and "Barnes' Ramblers" the only team consisting of Lago Colony players to participate in the Lago Sport Park championships. "Red Rock Cola" was formed in Oranjestad in 1950.

In 1952 the team Pepsi Cola became "Nesbitt's" and had players of seven countries, including two American expats from Lago Colony.

In 1950 a group of prominent

members of the Aruba community founded the Amateur Baseball Bond of Aruba (ABBA) to give structure to the management of the sport and became the organizers of official championship games. While maintaining the existing teams in a league that was referred to as A-class, ABBA established a B-class league in which the "Budweiser" and "Braves" played the first years.

By 1952 Aruba became a member of the International Amateur Baseball Association and fielded a team managed by Joe Proterra, (former pitcher of "Barnes' Ramblers"), that would play for the first time ever in the Amateur Baseball World Series that took place in Havana, Cuba in September. Surprisingly, Aruba won two of its six games and became the darling of the Havana fans. Nell Harms of the Aruban team was named the "Outstanding player of the week" for his performance against Honduras. He allowed just two hits, struck out 15 and hit the only homerun of the game. Joe Cambria, the famous scout for the Washington Senators offered him a contract, but Nel was not interested, but the next year, at the Amateur Baseball World Series in Caracas, Venezuela, Nel and Ruben Phillips did sign and in 1954 they played professional baseball the Georgia-Florida League and the Texas-New Mexico League. They were the first Arubans to play professionally, but not the only ones. During the games in Havana, contacts were made with the organizers of Little League Baseball in Cuba which eventually resulted in the introduction of Little League in Aruba. Little League of Aruba has been extremely successful: It has produced many players who earned baseball scholarships at universities in the United States, a few who played professionally in the Netherlands and different countries in the Caribbean and five who reached the major leagues: Calvin Maduro, Eugene Kingsale, Radhames Dijkhoff, Sydney Ponson, and Xander Bogaerts one of the brightest stars of Boston Red Sox. □

SPORTS



NASCAR has wild first 48 hours of Speedweeks

By JENNA FRYER
AP Auto Racing Writer
DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP)

— NASCAR is off to an intriguing start and the season has barely begun. In the first 48 hours, Ricky Stenhouse Jr. and Erik Jones, a pair of drivers with something to prove, grabbed the first two wins of the year. Brad Keselowski already seems at odds with teammate Joey Logano and the Busch Clash was an exhibition in how not to drive in the Daytona 500.

Kevin Harvick casually mentioned he'd signed an extension with Stewart-Haas Racing through 2023, a move that takes him out of contention to join Fox Sports while Jeff Gordon acknowledged on social media he is adjusting to this year's two-man booth. Corey LaJoie presented Rick Hendrick with a handwritten letter stating his case to replace Jimmie Johnson in the No. 48 next season, while Kyle Larson began his season as the top free agent in NASCAR without a single stress about his future.

The main event is still a week away, but NASCAR got a strong setup from its first weekend at Daytona International Speedway. Stenhouse back in September was subdued sitting at a sports book in a Las Vegas casino. Good friends Larson and Denny Hamlin were exhausted after a day promoting the start of the playoffs, but Stenhouse had not qualified to race for the championship and had the entire day off.

Continued on Page 23



Blazers beat Heat 115-109 in Iguodala's debut for Miami

Miami Heat guard Andre Iguodala brings the ball up the court during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Portland Trail Blazers in Portland, Ore., Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020.

Associated Press
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AP source: MLB considering expanding playoffs to 14 teams

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Baseball is considering expanding the playoffs to nearly half the 30 teams and allowing higher-seeded wild-card teams to choose opponents. The playoffs would grow from 10 clubs to 14 under the plan, first reported Monday by the New York Post. There would be four wild cards in each league, up from two.

Details were confirmed by a person familiar with the proposal who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because MLB did not authorize any public comments.

Another person, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said MLB has been looking at several plans.

Any proposal would have to be negotiated with the players' association. The current collective bargaining agreement runs through the 2021 season.

"Expanding the playoffs in a sensible way is something worth discussing when part of a much more com-



In this Oct. 30, 2019, file photo, Washington Nationals starting pitcher Max Scherzer celebrates with the trophy after Game 7 of the baseball World Series against the Houston Astros in Houston.

Associated Press

prehensive conversation about the current state of our game," union head Tony Clark said in a statement.

Only the division winner with the best regular-season record would advance directly to the Division Series under the plan.

The two other division win-

ners and wild-card teams would start in a best-of-three round.

The division winner with the second-best record would choose its opponent from among the three lowest-seeded wild-card teams.

The division winner with the third-best record would then get to pick from

among the remaining two wild cards. The top wild card would face whichever team is left over after the division winners make their choices.

The selections would be made on a televised show. MLB long restricted its postseason to just the pennant winners facing each other

in the World Series. Postseason teams doubled to four with the split of each league into two divisions in 1969, then to eight with the realignment to three divisions and the addition of a wild card in 1995, a year later than planned due to a players' strike.

The postseason reached its current 10 with the addition of a second wild card and a wild-card round in 2012.

A postseason of 14 teams would mean 47% of franchises reach the playoffs, which could cause some clubs not to go into rebuilding mode.

The players' association has criticized teams for what it calls "tanking."

Twelve of the 32 NFL teams (38%) reach the playoffs, along with 16 of 30 in the NBA (53%) and 16 of 31 in the NHL (52%), which expands to 32 franchises next season.

Expanded playoffs would create more content for broadcasters. MLB's contracts with ESPN and Turner run through 2021 and its deal with Fox goes through 2028. □

Ex-Blue Jays reliever sues Astros in sign-stealing scandal

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Former major league pitcher Mike Bolsinger sued the Houston Astros on Monday, claiming their sign-stealing scheme contributed to a poor relief appearance in August 2017 that essentially ended his big league career.

Bolsinger's suit in Los Angeles County Superior Court seeks unspecified damages for interfering with and harming his career. He's also asking that the Astros forfeit their nearly \$30 million in postseason shares from their 2017 World Series title, with the money going to children's charities in Los Angeles and a fund for needy retired players.

According to the suit, Bolsinger, then a reliever with the Toronto Blue Jays, was put into a game at Houston on Aug. 4, 2017, and allowed four runs, four hits and three walks in one-third of an inning in a 16-7

loss. The suit said the right-hander "was immediately terminated and cut from the team, never to return to Major League Baseball again."

He was demoted to Triple-A and hasn't pitched in the major leagues since. He was 0-3 with a 6.31 ERA in 11 appearances with Toronto in 2017. The 32-year-old pitched in Japan in 2018-19, and is seeking a job with a big league club for this season.

The Astros didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Commissioner Rob Manfred found the Astros broke rules against electronic sign stealing in 2017, including during the postseason. Manager A.J. Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow were fired last month.

According to MLB's investigation, the Astros used a video feed to steal op-



In this Aug. 4, 2017 file photo Toronto Blue Jays relief pitcher Mike Bolsinger, left, walks off the mound as Houston Astros' Marwin Gonzalez rounds the bases after hitting a three-run home run during the fourth inning of a baseball game in Houston.

Associated Press

posing teams' signs and then tipped off their batters to off-speed pitches by banging on a garbage can.

According to Bolsinger's lawsuit, graphic designer and web developer Tony Adams wrote a web application to document every instance of banging on a trash can during Astros home games in 2017.

He found that the most bangs occurred in that Aug. 4, 2017, game, including on 12 of 29 pitches Bolsinger threw, the lawsuit said.

Hinch told the media that night that it was "not unusual for us to have big nights when we put good at-bats together," according to the lawsuit.

Bolsinger also pitched for the Arizona Diamondbacks and Los Angeles Dodgers in his four-year career, going 8-19 with a 4.92 ERA. □

Celtics win streak at 7 after edging Thunder 112-111

By The Associated Press
OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) —

Kemba Walker scored 27 points, Jayson Tatum had 26 and the Boston Celtics beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 112-111 on Sunday for their seventh straight victory.

Jaylen Brown finished with 17 points for the Celtics, who made 16 3-pointers. One of them, by Marcus Smart with 8:19 remaining, gave Boston the lead for good.

Smart also stole the ball from Oklahoma City's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander with 5.8 seconds left to seal the victory.

Danilo Gallinari and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander each had 24 points for the Thunder, while point guards Chris Paul and Dennis Schroder finished with 22 apiece.

JAZZ 114, ROCKETS 113

HOUSTON (AP) — Bojan Bogdanovic made a 3-pointer as time expired to give Utah a victory over Houston.

Jordan Clarkson scored 30 points and Donovan Mitchell finished with 24 points, six assists and five rebounds for the Jazz, who won their second straight after a five-game losing streak.

They needed to come back after P.J. Tucker's 3-pointer from the corner gave Houston a two-point lead with 1.6 seconds remaining. After a timeout, Bogdanovic

came off a screen and hit a contested 29-footer to give the Jazz the win.

Mike Conley added 20 points, six assists and five rebounds for the Jazz. Rudy Gobert had 12 points and 15 rebounds. The Jazz shot 49%, including 15 of 38 on 3-pointers.

Russell Westbrook had 39 points for the Rockets. James Harden added 28 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists.

CLIPPERS 133, CAVALIERS 92

CLEVELAND (AP) — Lou Williams scored 25 points and Los Angeles routed Cleveland, the Cavaliers' worst home loss in franchise history. Cleveland's previous worst was a 39-point loss to Chicago in 2012.

Paul George had 22 points and Marcus Morris added 10 in his first game with Los Angeles, which led wire-to-wire without star forward Kawhi Leonard.

Andre Drummond started in his first game with Cleveland after being acquired from Detroit at the deadline. He scored 19 points and had 14 rebounds in 29 minutes.

76ERS 118, BULLS 111

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Furkan Korkmaz scored 31 points, Joel Embiid had 28 points and 12 rebounds and Philadelphia beat Chicago to improve its NBA-best home record to 24-2.



Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum (0) goes up for a shot over Oklahoma City Thunder center Steven Adams (12) in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020, in Oklahoma City.

Associated Press

Ben Simmons added 19 points, 10 assists and 10 rebounds for the 76ers.

Korkmaz stayed hot after netting a career-high 34 points in Friday's 119-107 home win over Memphis. He made 12 of 17 field goals, going 6 of 11 on 3-pointers.

Zach LaVine scored 32 points and Luke Kornet added 25 for the short-handed Bulls, who have lost five straight.

GRIZZLIES 106, WIZARDS 99

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ja Morant had 27 points, 10 assists and 10 rebounds for his first career triple-double to help Memphis overcome poor 3-point shooting and beat Washington.

Morant scored 10 points in the fourth quarter for Memphis, which closed the game on a 22-8 run after trailing for most of the second half.

Kyle Anderson added 16 points and Jaren Jackson Jr. had 14 for the Grizzlies, who won despite shooting 5 of 32 from beyond the arc. Jonas Valanciunas had 18 rebounds.

Bradley Beal scored 26 points for Washington, which led by as many as 12 points early but shot 4 of 26 in the fourth quarter.

HAWKS 140, KNICKS 135, 2 OTs

ATLANTA (AP) — Trae Young had 48 points and 13 assists, John Collins added

32 points and 16 rebounds, and Atlanta beat New York in two overtimes.

It was the ninth time Young has scored at least 40, second-most in the NBA this season. The first-time All-Star hit all 16 of his free throw attempts and knocked down a game-high six 3-pointers. Julius Randle finished with 35 points and 18 rebounds, and Reggie Bullock scored 21 points for New York, which had its four-game winning streak snapped. Playing their third game in four nights, the Knicks dropped to 17-37 after trailing by 16 in the fourth. They led by eight in the first overtime before letting the Hawks back in it. □

Deputy sues Toronto Raptors' boss over NBA Finals scuffle

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A law enforcement officer in California is suing the president of the Toronto Raptors over a scuffle following the team's NBA Finals victory over the Golden State Warriors last June.

The Raptors had just won their first title at Oracle Arena in Oakland on June 13 when Raptors President Masai Ujiri went onto the court to join his celebrating team.

Alameda County sheriff's

deputy Alan Strickland claims in a federal lawsuit filed Friday that he stopped Ujiri because he didn't provide the proper credential, leading to a shoving match that was partially captured on video. Strickland alleged Ujiri hit him "in the face and chest with both fists," tried to go around the deputy and repeatedly ignored orders to stop.

His lawsuit alleged that NBA officials had told security personnel someone

had recently gained access to the basketball court with fake credentials and that they "did not want this security breach to occur again." The lawsuit claims Strickland suffered "physical, mental, emotional, and economic injuries," including lost wages, lost opportunity for financial gain and future earning capacity. It also cited past and future medical care and expenses and names his wife as a plaintiff. The suit seeks



In this Oct. 22, 2019 file photo Toronto Raptors president Masai Ujiri receives his 2019 NBA basketball championship ring from Larry Tanenbaum, chairman of Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment, before the Raptors played the New Orleans Pelicans in Toronto.

Associated Press

\$75,000 in damages. Strickland reported suffering a concussion and an injury to his jaw that forced

him to miss work, his attorney said at the time. He has been out on medical leave since the scuffle. □

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: Hook and Cook your Own Fish!



Oranjestad- Renaissance Marina Downtown is home to the Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood. Herby senior and Herby Junior both share a passion and love for fishing. They know what the local waters have to offer and what fresh fish really means. Over 30 years ago, the idea for the fishing charter was born.

Captain Herby would catch the fish to be served at the restaurant the same day. That concept still lives, what is 'hooked' during the day is cooked in the evening at the restaurant.

Herby shares his experience with his crew, who take out guests daily on their tournament rigged 35ft twin engine

Bertram "Driftwood" or on their more spacious 37ft twin engine Bertram called "Living Easy". Both yachts are available for charters from 8am to 12 noon, or from 1 to 5pm (6-hour trips also available). To book a fishing charter visit www.driftwoodfishingcharters.com or call Herbert direct at (297)-5924040.



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Opening Hours: 5:00pm to 10:30pm (closed on Sundays)

For reservations visit www.driftwoodaruba.com or call (297)-5832515

Address: Klipstraat 12. Oranjestad, Aruba

AP Source: Red Sox will send Betts, Price to Dodgers

By JIMMY GOLEN
AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Two days before the start of spring training, the Boston Red Sox have again agreed to send 2018 AL MVP Mookie Betts and pitcher David Price to the Los Angeles Dodgers in a reworked deal, a person with knowledge of the negotiations told The Associated Press on Sunday. The Red Sox will receive Dodgers outfielder Alex Verdugo and prospects Jeter Downs and Connor Wong, the person told the AP on the condition of anonymity because the deal still needed the approval of Major League Baseball. Boston was to send cash to the Dodgers to offset Price's salary, reportedly half of the \$96 million still owed to the 2012 AL Cy Young Award winner.

A three-team deal that would have sent Dodgers pitcher Kenta Maeda to the Twins for pitcher Brusdar



In this Aug. 10, 2019, file photo, Boston Red Sox's Mookie Betts hits an RBI-double during the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels in Boston.

Graterol and then flipped Graterol to the Red Sox fell apart last week when Boston balked at Graterol's medical records. Los Angeles and Minnesota completed a separate deal on Sunday night, a person familiar with that deal told the AP.

But the Red Sox and Dodg-

ers spent the weekend finding another way to complete the deal that put Betts in Dodgers blue while allowing Boston to get under the collective bargaining tax threshold in 2020. The 2018 World Series champions will save tens of millions of dollars this season in salary and penalties, but at the

expense of one of the best players in baseball.

Los Angeles has won seven straight NL West titles, averaging more than 100 wins over the past three seasons, but has only a pair of NL pennants to show for it, twice losing in the World Series to teams that were later accused of cheating. With

Betts and Price, the Dodgers have what they hope will be the final pieces they need to win their first Series since 1988.

Betts will earn \$27 million this year; he is eligible to become a free agent after the season and has turned down a nine-figure contract extension. To get him for one year, the Dodgers agreed to part with Downs, a middle infielder who batted .276 with 24 homers and 86 RBIs at Single- and Double-A last year, and Wong, a catcher who batted .281 with 24 homers and 82 RBIs in Single- and Double-A.

Price is due \$96 million over the final three years of a \$217 million, seven-year deal he signed before the 2016 season.

After helping Boston win a franchise-record 108 games and the World Series in 2018, he missed time last year with a wrist injury and went 7-5 with a 4.28 ERA in 22 starts. □

Associated Press



Minnesota Wild's Jason Zucker, left, and Vancouver Canucks' Jake Virtanen fight during the first period of an NHL hockey game Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020, in St. Paul, Minn. Both received fighting penalties.

Associated Press

Penguins acquire forward Zucker from Wild for Galchenyuk

By WILL GRAVES
AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Penguins have acquired veteran forward Jason Zucker from Minnesota, giving the Penguins' top-six forward group a jolt as they prepare for a post-season push.

Pittsburgh sent forward Alex Galchenyuk, defenseman prospect Calen Addison and a conditional 2020 first-round draft pick to the Wild in exchange for Zucker.

The 28-year-old Zucker has 14 goals and 15 assists this season for Minnesota. His arrival in Pittsburgh gives the Penguins more scoring depth to add to one of their top two lines. Pittsburgh, currently four points behind first-place Washington in the Metropolitan Division, has spent the last five weeks looking to replace All-Star forward Jake Guentzel, who is out until late April after injuring his right shoulder on Dec. 30.

"Jason Zucker is a top-six forward that we think will be a great fit for our group," Penguins general manager Jim Rutherford said in a statement. "He's a proven goal scorer, and with three more years on his current contract, he has the potential to make an impact for us moving forward."

The deal marked the first major move by first-year general manager Bill Guerin, who was previously assistant GM of the Penguins. Guerin told the Wild

he'd give them as much time as he could to catch up in the Western Conference, and they entered the week just four points out of a wild card spot. But they've been stuck in the middle of the pack for several years and could use a refresh of their prospect pool.

Zucker, who was recently moved down to the fourth line, has been on the trading block for a year, almost getting dealt right before the deadline last season by Guerin's predecessor, Paul Fenton. He won the NHL's humanitarian award last summer, the King Clancy Memorial Trophy. After posting a career-high 33 goals and playing in all 82 games in 2017-18, Zucker's production waned last season with the rest of the Wild as they saw their streak of six straight playoff appearances end. The move sends Galchenyuk packing just seven months after the Penguins acquired him from Arizona in the deal that sent popular but mercurial forward Phil Kessel to the Coyotes. Galchenyuk struggled to find a niche in Pittsburgh, managing just five goals and 12 assists in 45 games. His playing time decreased as the season wore on. He's played less than 10 minutes in seven of the Penguins' last eight games and his average time on ice of 11:29 per game represents a career low by a full minute. □



Boston Bruins defenseman Brandon Carlo (25) and Detroit Red Wings left wing Andreas Athanasiou (72) battle for the puck in the second period of an NHL hockey game Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020, in Detroit.

Associated Press

Athanasiou helps Red Wings knock off Bruins 3-1

By The Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Andreas Athanasiou snapped a tie midway through the third period and scored an empty-net goal in the final minute, lifting the Detroit Red Wings to a 3-1 win over the Boston Bruins on Sunday.

Detroit is easily the worst team in the NHL, but the rebuilding Red Wings have defeated the league-best Bruins in both of their games this season.

Boston had won six straight until the Red Wings stopped the streak with their second win in three games. Detroit's Jonathan Bernier made 39 saves. Boston's Tuuka Rask stopped 17 shots while filling in for Jaroslav Halak, who was dealing with an upper-body injury that flared up Saturday morning.

RANGERS 4, KINGS 1

NEW YORK (AP) — Artemi Panarin, Kaapo Kakko and Greg McKegg scored, and powering the Rangers to the victory.

New York won for the fourth time in its last six games. Tony DeAngelo had an empty-netter, and rookie Igor Shesterkin made 42 saves for his fifth win in six starts.

Trevor Moore scored for the Kings, who have dropped five in a row. Jonathan Quick made 37 saves.

DUCKS 3, SABRES 2

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Ryan Miller stopped 31 shots, including all 15 he faced in the third period, and the Ducks held off the Sabres.

Jakob Silfverberg, Ryan Getzlaf and Nick Ritchie staked Anaheim to a 3-0 lead by scoring over a 5:45 span in the first period, and the Ducks closed out a 3-0-2 road trip. The five-game point streak is Anaheim's longest since winning five straight games from Nov. 27 to Dec. 5, 2018.

Johan Larsson and Rasmus Dahlin scored for Buffalo, which was coming off a 3-1 win at the New York Rangers on Friday night. The Sabres dropped to 2-5-1 in their past seven overall.

JETS 5, BLACKHAWKS 2

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — Andrew Copp had the go-ahead score in Winnipeg's four-goal third period, and the Jets rallied to beat the Blackhawks for their third straight win. Copp gave Winnipeg a 3-2 lead when he beat Corey Crawford up high from in close with 6:33 left after taking a perfect pass from forward Jack Roslovic.

Kyle Connor had a pair of goals, and Blake Wheeler and Patrick Laine also scored for the Jets, who trailed 2-0 after 20 minutes. Connor, with his team-leading 28th goal, and Laine had empty-netters late to secure the two points.

Dominik Kubalik and Brandon Saad scored for the Blackhawks.

AVALANCHE 3, WILD 2

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Nathan MacKinnon scored his 32nd goal of the season, Pavel Francouz made 34 saves and the Avalanche ended their road trip with four wins in five games. Pierre-Edouard Bellemare and Gabriel Landeskog also scored for Colorado, which has won seven of the past eight games and is second in the league behind Washington with 18 road wins this season.

Jared Spurgeon and Kevin Fiala scored for Minnesota, which lost for the first time in four games. Devan Dubnyk made his second straight start for the Wild and stopped 30 shots. □

Chargers QB Rivers will enter free agency after 16 seasons

By **JOE REEDY**

AP Sports Writer

COSTA MESA, Calif. (AP) —

Philip Rivers' 16-year career with the Chargers has come to an end.

The franchise announced Monday that Rivers will enter free agency and won't return to Los Angeles for the upcoming season. General manager Tom Telesco said in a statement that as they talked through various scenarios with Rivers, it became apparent it would be best for both "to turn the page on what has truly been a remarkable run."

Rivers' future in powder blue was the main storyline late in the season after the Chargers were eliminated from postseason consideration. He said during the final weeks that he intended to play in 2020, even if that meant going to another team.

The 38-year old Rivers was emotional and in a reflective mood after the Chargers' 31-21 loss to Kansas City in the season finale. He acknowledged it would be weird to be in another uniform but didn't think it would be much of an adjustment.

Los Angeles made the playoffs in 2018 but was 5-11 this season with nine losses by one score. The seven-win decline was the worst dropoff in the league in 2019 and the second



In this Dec. 29, 2019, file photo Los Angeles Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers stands for the national anthem before an NFL football game against the Kansas City Chiefs in Kansas City, Mo. Associated Press

biggest in franchise history. Rivers' 4,615 passing yards were fourth in the league, but his 20 interceptions were third most and just one off tying a career high. Rivers moved his family to Florida last month from their longtime home in San Diego. He commuted between the team's Orange County headquarters and San Diego since the franchise moved in 2017.

"I am very grateful to the Spanos family and the Chargers organization for the last 16 years," Rivers said in a statement. "In anything you do, it's the people

you do it with that make it special. There are so many relationships and memories with coaches, support staff and teammates that will last forever, and for that I am so thankful. We had a lot of great moments, beginning in San Diego and then finishing in LA. I wish my teammates and coaches nothing but the best moving forward."

Rivers was selected fourth overall by the New York Giants in the 2004 draft but was traded to the Chargers in a draft day deal for Eli Manning, who announced his retirement last month. Rivers went on to set 30

franchise records with the Chargers and was an eight-time selection to the Pro Bowl. He also led the Chargers to the playoffs six times but only twice since 2010.

His 224 consecutive regular-season starts are second-most among quarterbacks in NFL history and his 123 wins are ninth. He is one of six quarterbacks to eclipse 50,000 career yards and his 397 touchdowns are sixth.

"I've said before that Philip can still compete at a top-starter level and, in a perfect world, number 17 is your quarterback forever. Obviously, we live in an

imperfect world where the only constant is change," Telesco said. "I think Philip's tremendous perspective, both when it comes to football and when it comes to life, helped lend clarity to a very complex situation."

The Chargers have plenty of questions that need to be answered during the offseason as they prepare to move into SoFi Stadium in Inglewood. They have the sixth pick in the draft in what looks to be a deep quarterback class that includes LSU's Joe Burrow, Alabama's Tua Tagovailoa and Oregon's Justin Herbert. The Rivers announcement comes two weeks before the NFL scouting combine begins in Indianapolis.

Los Angeles also has quarterbacks Tyrod Taylor and Easton Stick under contract. Taylor will be entering his 10th season and has 46 starts with Buffalo and Cleveland. Stick was selected in the fifth round last season.

Besides Rivers, the Chargers' other top free agents include running back Melvin Gordon, tight end Hunter Henry, safety Adrian Phillips and fullback Derek Watt. Running back Austin Ekeler is a restricted free agent. Telesco said last month that he expects to have some salary cap flexibility when free agency begins March 18. □

AP Source: Browns star Garrett meets with NFL about return

By **TOM WITHERS**

AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) —

Suspended Browns star defensive end Myles Garrett met Monday with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell to discuss his possible reinstatement, a person familiar with the meeting told The Associated Press.

Garrett, who was banned indefinitely for ripping off Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Mason Rudolph's helmet and hitting him over the head with it during the closing seconds of a Nov. 15 game, dis-



In this Nov. 14, 2019, file photo, Cleveland Browns defensive end Myles Garrett (95) hits Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Mason Rudolph (2) with a helmet during the second half of an NFL football game in Cleveland.

Associated Press

cussed his situation with officials in New York, said Goodell and other league the person who spoke on

condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the meeting.

There is no timetable for Garrett's return. However, he has expressed remorse for his conduct, and his meeting with Goodell was a necessary step in order to get back on the field in 2020.

Once Garrett is cleared, he'll be able to take part in the Browns' offseason program under new coach Kevin Stefanski. Garrett was allowed back at the Browns' facility toward the end of the season to rehab an injury.

The No. 1 overall pick in 2017, Garrett has had an exemplary record since joining the league, and his actions toward Rudolph were uncharacteristic. He appealed his suspension, but it was upheld by independent officer James Thrash despite Garrett's allegation that Rudolph used a racial slur.

Garrett's attack on Rudolph came after the two wrestled on the field as the Browns were closing out a rare win over their AFC North rival, and it touched off a brawl involving several other players. □



Toto Wolff, Team Principal & CEO of The Mercedes AMG-PETRONAS F1 Team, right, and INEOS Founder and Chairman Jim Ratcliffe pose for a photo with a Mercedes F1 car and its 2020 livery during a media briefing in London, Monday, Feb. 10, 2020.
Associated Press

After signing sponsor, Mercedes awaits Lewis Hamilton to commit

By **ROB HARRIS**
AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — Now that Mercedes has signed a sponsorship with one of Britain's richest people, the Formula One team has to secure a long-term commitment from world champion Lewis Hamilton.

Jim Ratcliffe's chemical giant INEOS has a five-year deal with Mercedes, but Hamilton is entering the last season of his contract.

"It is the obvious pairing going forward," Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff said Monday at the RAC Club. "We would like to have the fastest man in the car and I know Lewis wants to be in the fastest car so there is an obvious mutual outcome."

The season begins next month in Melbourne, and Hamilton will be looking to equal Michael Schumacher's record of seven world titles.

At the same time, there's a contract for 2021 and beyond to negotiate.

Wolff said he has hasn't spoken to Hamilton since December after agreeing to "leave each other in peace" for the couple of months in the year they aren't traveling around the world.

"We (agreed we) would continue our discussions when he comes back from America and we have

properly kicked off the season," Wolff said. "I have great belief in the ability of the team to attract the best drivers and, at the moment, Lewis has proven that he is the best current driver with his six world titles and in the mid and long term I would hope that we are able to provide technology to the best driver and attract them."

Mercedes itself has yet to officially commit to staying in the sport after 2021, when teams are subject to new Formula One regulations.

Wolff called negotiations with the sport's leadership a "work in progress" for Mercedes, which re-entered F1 in 2010 and has won the last six constructors' titles.

"We are in this for the long term," Wolff said. "Mercedes provides a great marketing platform for our brand. This is what we do. We build race cars and we build road cars. We like the platform but at the same time we are in negotiation with the rights' holder and things need to be sorted out."

"The partnership indicates our wish to continue our successful journey in Formula One. It is an ongoing process with a complicated set of contracts, between the FIA, commercial rights holder and the teams and that needs time." □



Erik Jones (20) heads to the finish line to win the NASCAR Busch Clash auto race at Daytona International Speedway, Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020, in Daytona Beach, Fla. Denny Hamlin (11), who was a lap down, helped Jones with a push in Turn 4.
Associated Press

NASCAR

Continued from Page 17

"I wouldn't have minded working today," he said as his buddies lamented appearance after appearance. On Monday, as those same friends scattered to enjoy two days off from Speedweeks, it was Stenhouse jumping from morning show to morning show to talk about his pole-winning run for the Daytona 500. It came on his second day driving a Chevrolet Camaro and with his small new team at JTG-Daugherty Racing.

Roughly a month after missing the playoffs, Stenhouse was dumped by Roush Fenway Racing, the team that brought him to NASCAR and where he won a pair of Xfinity Series championships. Stenhouse thought he was set for 2021, but instead he had to scramble to get the JTG seat and managed to bring crew chief Brian Pattie from Roush, along with Mike Kelley, who guided Stenhouse's Xfinity championships.

Now the driver derisively referred to as "Wrecked Spinhouse Jr." for his aggressive racing on superspeedways is the star of the show headed into "The Great American Race." He believes his hand-picked JTG support system can turn the team into a legitimate contender. "I think there's

a handful of us that feel like we have something to prove, and two of those are in my corner with me at JTG-Daugherty Racing with Mike and Brian," Stenhouse said. "I know that I feel like I can still get the job done behind the wheel and win races like we did in the Xfinity Series. ... to go to a whole brand new place, I think I'd have been lost not having them there."

Jones is in a similar situation as the least successful driver in the Joe Gibbs Racing juggernaut. The four drivers combined for 19 wins last year, and Jones only notched one. He was eliminated in the first round of the playoffs — the only Gibbs driver not to make it to the championship finale. Jones' contract extension also dragged deep into last season as Gibbs had to decide if it wanted to bring up Christopher Bell to the big leagues.

Jones ultimately won the Southern 500 at Darlington, finalized a contract extension and Bell was farmed out to a Gibbs affiliate. But Jones has to be able to compete with teammates Kyle Busch, the reigning Cup champion, Denny Hamlin, a two-time and defending Daytona 500 winner, and Martin Truex Jr., winner of seven races last season. With a huge push from Hamlin, Jones took Gibbs to victory lane for the

first time this season when he won Sunday's exhibition Busch Clash. There were only six cars running at the end of the third overtime, when Jones with a crumpled hood crossed the finish line. "We spent a lot of time reflecting and talking and thinking about things we could do better," crew chief Chris Gayle said. "Do we want to be the fourth-best JGR team? No. And we were. We have done a lot of things differently and looking to be better."

So is Team Penske, which orchestrated a three-team swap during the offseason that gave each of its drivers a new crew chief.

It meant Paul Wolfe, considered one of the best in the garage, was moved from Keselowski to Logano after 10 seasons, 29 wins and a Cup Series title. Ryan Blaney got championship-winning crew chief Todd Gordon from Logano, and Jeremy Bullins went from Blaney to Keselowski.

Keselowski's debut with Bullins got off to a rocky start when the driver hit a fence heading out to practice Saturday. Keselowski watched from the garage for at least four hours as his team tried to repair the No. 2 Ford. Then in the Clash, where he was racing for a moral victory, he got caught in a wreck triggered by Logano's block on Busch. □

Video of Pelosi brings renewed attention to 'cheapfakes'

By **RACHEL LERMAN**

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

The issue of misleading political messages on social media has arisen again, as President Donald Trump tweeted an edited video showing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi repeatedly tearing up his State of the Union speech as he honored audience members and showed a military family reuniting.

Pelosi did tear the pages of her copy of the speech — but only after it was finished, and not throughout the address, as the video depicts.

Pelosi's office asked Twitter and Facebook to take down the video. Both services refused, saying it does not violate their policies intended to prohibit intentionally deceptive videos.

Researchers worry the video's "selective editing" could mislead people if social media companies don't step in and properly label or regulate similar videos. And with the proliferation of smartphones equipped with easy-to-use editing tools, the altered videos are simple to make and could multiply as the election approaches.

HOW LONG HAS DOCTORED CONTENT BEEN AN ISSUE?

Political campaign ads and candidate messages showing opponents in a negative light have long been a staple of American politics. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams attacked each other in newspaper ads. John



In this Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020, file photo, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, of California, tears her copy of President Donald Trump's State of the Union address after he delivered it to a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

F. Kennedy's campaign debuted an ad showing different videos edited together of Richard Nixon sweating and looking weak.

So, to some extent, the video of Pelosi, which appears to be created by a group affiliated with conservative organization Turning Point USA, is not novel. What's different now, said Clifford Lampe, a professor of information at the University of Michigan, is how widely such content can spread in a matter of minutes.

"The difference now is that the campaigns themselves, the president of U.S. himself, is able to disseminate these pieces of media to the public," he said. "They no longer have to collabo-

rate with media outlets."

The Pelosi team has pushed back against doctored online content in the past. A video released last year was slowed down to make it seem the speaker was slurring her words.

WHAT POLICIES FROM SOCIAL MEDIA COMPANIES GOVERN THESE VIDEOS?

Facebook, Google and Twitter have all been emphasizing their efforts to cut down on disinformation on their services, hoping to avoid some of the backlash generated by rampant misinformation on social media during the 2016 election.

But the video of Pelosi does not violate existing policies, both Twitter and Face-

book said. Facebook has rules that prohibit so-called "deepfake" videos, which the company says are both misleading and use artificial intelligence technology to make it seem like someone authentically "said words that they did not actually say."

Researchers say the Pelosi video is an example of a "cheapfake" video, one that has been altered but not with sophisticated AI like in a deepfake. Cheapfakes are much easier to create and are more prevalent than deepfakes, which have yet to really take off, said Samuel Woolley, director of propaganda research at the Center for Media Engage-

ment at University of Texas. That editing is "deliberately designed to mislead and lie to the American people," Pelosi deputy chief of staff Drew Hammill tweeted on Friday. He condemned Facebook and Twitter for allowing the video to stay up on the social media services.

Facebook spokesman Andy Stone replied to Hammill on Twitter saying, "Sorry, are you suggesting the President didn't make those remarks and the Speaker didn't rip the speech?" In an interview Sunday, Stone confirmed that the video didn't violate the company's policy. In order to be taken down, the video would have had to use more advanced technology and possibly try to show Pelosi saying words she didn't say.

Twitter did not remove the video either and pointed toward a blog post from early February that says the company plans to start labeling tweets that contain "synthetic and manipulated media." Labeling will begin on March 5.

WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY?

Not much. Social media companies are broadly able to police the content on their own services as they choose. A law, section 230 of the Communication Decency Act, shields tech platforms from most lawsuits based on the content posted on their services, leaving responsibility largely in the companies' own hands. □

U.S. antitrust chief leaving Google probe because of lobbying



In this Nov. 5, 2019, file photo, Assistant Attorney General Makan Delrahim, speaks at the Justice Department in Washington.

Associated Press

By **MARCY GORDON and MICHAEL BALSAMO**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department official leading the investigation of big tech companies' market dominance is stepping aside from the department's Google probe because of his previous lobbying work for Google as a private attorney.

Assistant Attorney General Makan Delrahim, the department's antitrust chief, is recusing himself from the

investigation into Google, a person familiar with the matter said Tuesday.

Word of Delrahim's recusal came as other Justice Department officials met with state attorneys general to discuss their parallel investigations of Google and cooperation in enforcing antitrust laws in the tech industry.

The person wasn't authorized to discuss the investigation and spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity.

Delrahim lobbied on Google's behalf in 2007 when the Mountain View, California-based search giant faced antitrust scrutiny over its acquisition of DoubleClick, a competitor in digital advertising.

The Justice Department's ethics office apparently found no potential conflict of interest when Delrahim sought guidance as the investigation of Facebook, Google, Amazon and Apple began last spring. □

Now for sale at the mall ... the mall; Simon buys Taubman

By **MICHELLE CHAPMAN**
and **ANNE D'INNOCENZIO**
AP Business Writers

As mall-based retailers struggle to compete with the onslaught from online shopping, the companies that own and manage the malls are finding their own business models severely challenged.

For the second time in as many weeks, there is a major agreement involving mall operators.

The Simon Property Group will buy mall operator Taubman Realty in a deal valued at around \$3.6 billion. Simon Property Group Inc. is the nation's largest mall operator. It said Monday that its operating partnership, Simon Property Group, LP, will buy all of Taubman stock for \$52.50 per share. The Taubman family will sell about one-third of its ownership stake at the transaction price and remain a 20% partner in Taubman Realty Group LP.

Taubman Realty owns,

manages or leases 26 shopping centers in the U.S. and Asia, including The Mall at Short Hills in New Jersey, and Waterside Shops in Naples, Florida. Simon owns or has a stake in 204 properties in the U.S., including premium outlets as of last year.

"By joining together, we will enhance the ability of (Taubman) to invest in innovative retail environments that create exciting shopping and entertainment experiences for consumers, immersive opportunities for retailers and substantial new job prospects for local communities," said David Simon, Simon's chairman, CEO and president in a statement.

Malls have struggled with retail bankruptcies and store closings after a vast shift in the way Americans shop.

Since 2015, only nine malls have been built, a dramatic fall from their peak construction in 1973 of 43, ac-

cording to CoStar Group, a real estate research firm.

Vacancy rates at malls are hovering around 4% on average, says CoStar, though struggling malls are closer to 7% vacant.

Last week Macy's, a cornerstone in many malls, announced that it is closing 125 of its least productive stores and cutting 2,000 corporate jobs. The store closures represent about one fifth of all its locations and are in poor-performing malls. And consortium of buyers, including mall owners Simon and Brookfield Property Partners, bid \$81 million last week for Forever 21, the ubiquitous mall staple that filed for bankruptcy protection in September.

Several years ago, Simon and the company that became Brookfield Property Partners, another big mall operator, teamed up to save struggling teen apparel retailer Aeropostale, which was in bankruptcy.



This Feb. 16, 2010 file photo shows the headquarters of the Simon Property Group in downtown Indianapolis.

Associated Press

Traditional malls are adding more entertainment and other non-retail options like restaurants and gyms to create new energy at their properties. They're also trying to avoid darkened areas inside their properties, which can exacerbate their problems and trigger lease clauses that allow tenants to renegotiate.

The acquisition of a majority stake in Taubman is expected to close by the middle of the year. It still needs approval from two-thirds of the outstanding Taubman voting stock and a majority of outstanding Taubman voting stock not held by the Taubman family.

Shares of Taubman Centers Inc., based in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, soared 53% Monday. Shares of Simon Property, based in Indianapolis, rose less than 1%. □

Schick owner retreats from \$1.37B buyout of Harry's

SHELTON, Conn. (AP) — The company that owns Schick has terminated its attempt to buy the upstart shaving company Harry's for \$1.37 billion, just days after the U.S. sued to block the acquisition.

Edgewell Personal Care Co. said Monday that it will move forward as a stand-alone company. It also said that Harry's Inc. is now suing Edgewell, a case that it says has no merit.

The Federal Trade Commission cited antitrust issues in trying to derail the deal last week. Schick is the No. 2 razor company in the U.S. behind Gillette. Both brands have slashed prices and overhauled their sales operations in recent years in response to the rise of Harry's and rival Dollar Shave Club, which both started as direct-to-consumer digital brands.

Harry's co-CEOs, Jeff Raider and Andy Katz-Mayfield, said they "continue to be perplexed by the FTC's process and disregard of the facts." And they said that they're "disappointed by the decision by Edgewell's board not to see this process to its conclusion." The statement made no mention of Harry's intention to pursue litigation.

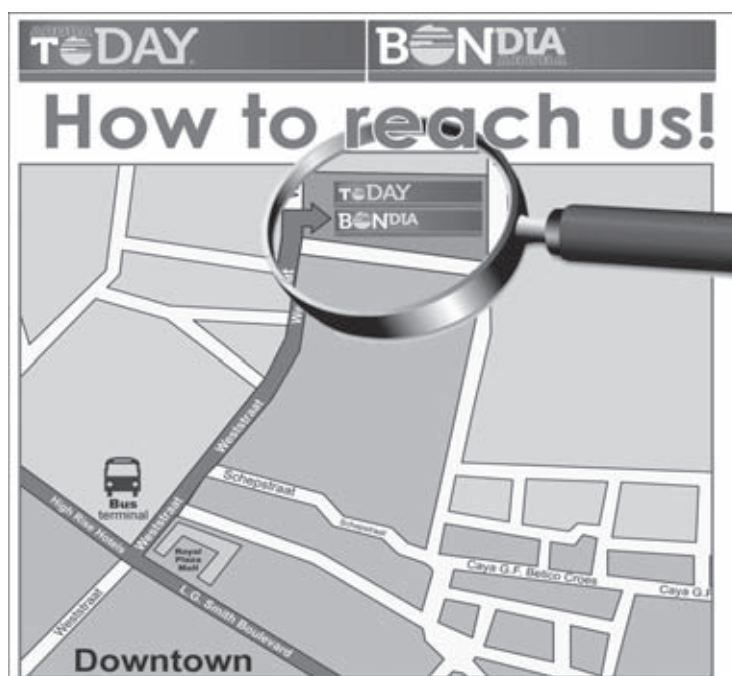
"We're growing, profitable, well capitalized and excited about the opportunities ahead for our business," Raider and Katz-Mayfield said.

Harry's, based in New York, had hoped to capitalize on Edgewell's large distribution channels and Schick's blade technology. Edgewell believed that it would be able to leverage Harry's direct-to-consumer marketing base and digital savvy. □



In this June 15, 2018, file photo, the Winston razor and Harry's face lotion are on display at the headquarters of Harry's Inc., in New York.

Associated Press



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Editor
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Assistant Director
Xiomara Arends

Editor in Chief
Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

Editors
Richard Brooks

Sales
Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds
classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection
accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website
Juan Luis Pinto
Pilar Flores

Columnists
Anthony Croes
Joris Zantvoort
Shanella Pantophlet
Steve Franceses
Thais Franken

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
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Mutts



"SHTINKY"

6 Chix



Conceptis Sudoku

		8	4			9		
1	2		7			1		
		4	8		7		1	6
6	9		2	3	4	7		
4			3				2	9
		6			5			
		7			2	8		

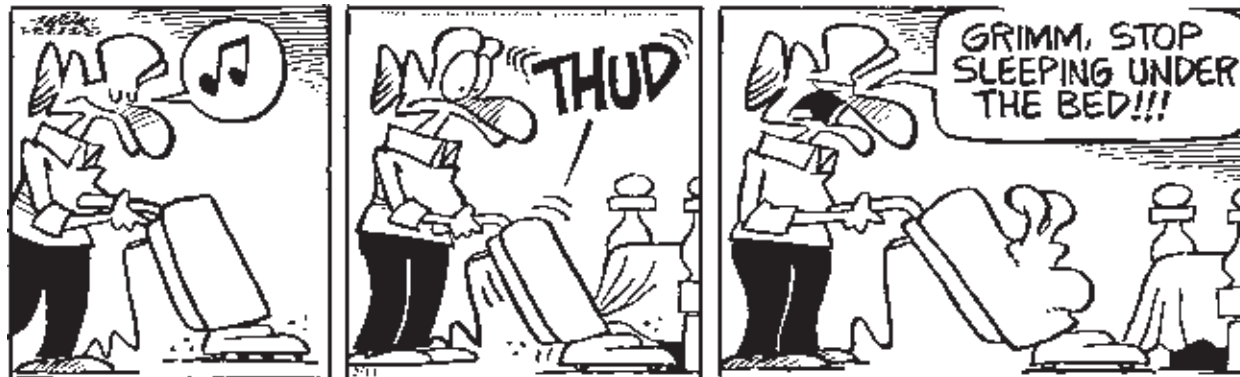
Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits

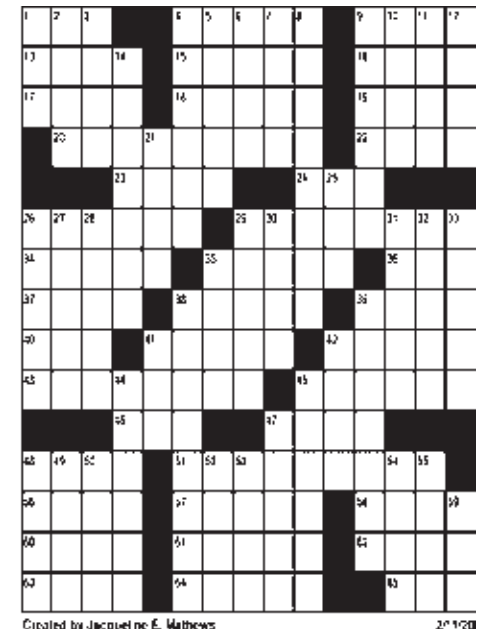


Yesterday's puzzle answer

5	8	1	6	4	3	7	9	2
6	9	3	8	7	2	4	1	5
7	4	2	1	9	5	6	8	3
3	1	6	9	5	4	8	2	7
9	2	4	7	3	8	5	6	1
8	5	7	2	1	6	9	3	4
4	7	8	3	2	9	1	5	6
2	6	5	4	8	1	3	7	9
1	3	9	5	6	7	2	4	8

- ACROSS**
- Octaned
 - SPS purchase
 - Con game
 - Pardon the irony
 - More peasant
 - Songwriter Porter
 - Go opening
 - Goodnight U.S. folk song
 - Highway
 - To the state; rose to the occasion
 - Whitney & Valachi
 - Three-storied
 - Presidential nickname
 - Church services
 - Came asada recipe verb
 - Ready here come!
 - Crates
 - Bar soap brand
 - As comfortable old shoe
 - Locations
 - Slippy skirt
 - Lesser-used conjunction
 - Voodooes
 - 9 Del'me
 - More devious
 - Sheep's covering
 - Study of parts abor
 - Beef or pork
 - Jeremiah culting
 - Rising
 - Share a border with
 - Fatal har
 - City in Alaska
 - Get away
 - Oversize
 - Diver Lougaris
 - Actress Harper
 - Parent or grandparent
 - L-P connection

- DOWN**
- Propane or ethylene
 - Most of Monet's paintings
 - Horse's gait
 - Shoots from hiding
 - Exhausted
 - at last; passed easily
 - List of dishes
 - Readies
 - Window covering
 - Fantastic
 - Car
 - Pharmacy orders for short
 - Cowboy hat
 - Longle owl
 - Kimer
 - eBay offer
 - and grains
 - complaints
 - Maicious burning
 - Entrapment
 - Linear measure
 - Wood spiders
 - Wonderland visitor
 - Long shirt
 - Barishment
 - Grape bearer
 - Proper fitting



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

20/1/20

Monday's Puzzle Solved

CAR	SCOFF	ABLE
BABE	ERNIE	BRAG
ANOX	DECREASING	
GEM	CAPIES	LEEDS
IRATE	DAN	
CANINE	TARTAN	
ADAPT	REARM	BOW
RIBS	DIANE	TOTE
LOLS	SINUS	MOVED
SEALED	CARESS	
FAD	THROB	
CARRY	THREE	OLE
EQUESTRIAN	BAAS	
LUGS	OUNCE	ARCS
LASH	PETTY	DDE

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- Conference
 - Fight result for short
 - in wearing
 - Lessons
 - Protective piece over a car wheel
 - Come together
 - Foot on the breeze
 - Quailed
 - Goes after legally
 - One of many at SeaWorld
 - Five or six
 - Man's nickname
 - Special FBI agent
 - Sense of se-esteem

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Date : 03/6 to 03/13/2020
\$4 K
Divi Links Golf \$1,5 K
Carnival week sleep 4
Date :02/15 to 02/22/ 2020

Marriott Ocean Club
Platinum
1 BR Ocean View \$10 K
1 BR Ocean Front \$20 K
2 BR Ocean View \$17 K
2 BR Ocean View \$26 K

Marriott Surf Club
Platinum
2 BR Ocean View \$ 17 K
2 BR Ocean Side \$ 18 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$26 K
3 BR Ocean View \$26 K

Aruba Divi Phoenix
1 BR WK 8
Building 6 on the 4th floor
27 weeks remain \$15 K
1 BR WK 11
building 7 on the 3rd floor
33 weeks remain \$15 K

Aruba Divi Phoenix
1 BR Week # 8/9
Penthouse 14th floor
with 32/22 weeks remain
\$20 K both weeks

Divi Village \$ 7 K
1 BR WK # 14
ground floor building C
16 weeks remain

Renaissance Suites
1 BR WK # 9 \$ 9 K
4th floor harbor view
Divi Village
2 BR Wk 13 \$13K
3 rd floor building
27 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf
1 BR Wk 6 \$8K Birdie 1
19 weeks remain
Studio wk 7/8
Birdie 5 \$7,5 K each
27/29 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf
1 BR WK 8/9
Eagle 9 \$9,5K each
with 27/19 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf
1 BR WK #11
Birdie 3 \$9 K
26 weeks remain
1 BR wk 12/13
ground Floor
With 33/34 weeks remain
Birdie 10 \$9,5 K each

Divi Village
Studio wk 6 \$ 7,5 K
Building F
21 weeks remain
2 sd Floor 18 weeks remain
Dutch Village
1 BR WK 7/8 \$9 K each
15 weeks remain each
2 BR WK 7 \$18 K
25 weeks remain

Dutch Village
1 BR WK 9
16 weeks remain
1 BR WK 8 \$8 K
12 weeks remain
1 BR WK 7/8 \$7 K
12/24 weeks remain

Eagle Resorts
1 BR WK 5,6,7,8
Ground Floor \$6,5 K each
1 BR wk 7/8/9 \$6,5 K each
Caribbean Palm Village
1 BR wk 3/4 \$6 K
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Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
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Solar Orbiter blasts off to capture 1st look at sun's poles

By **MARCIA DUNN**

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.

(AP) — Europe and NASA's Solar Orbiter rocketed into space Sunday night on an unprecedented mission to capture the first pictures of the sun's elusive poles.

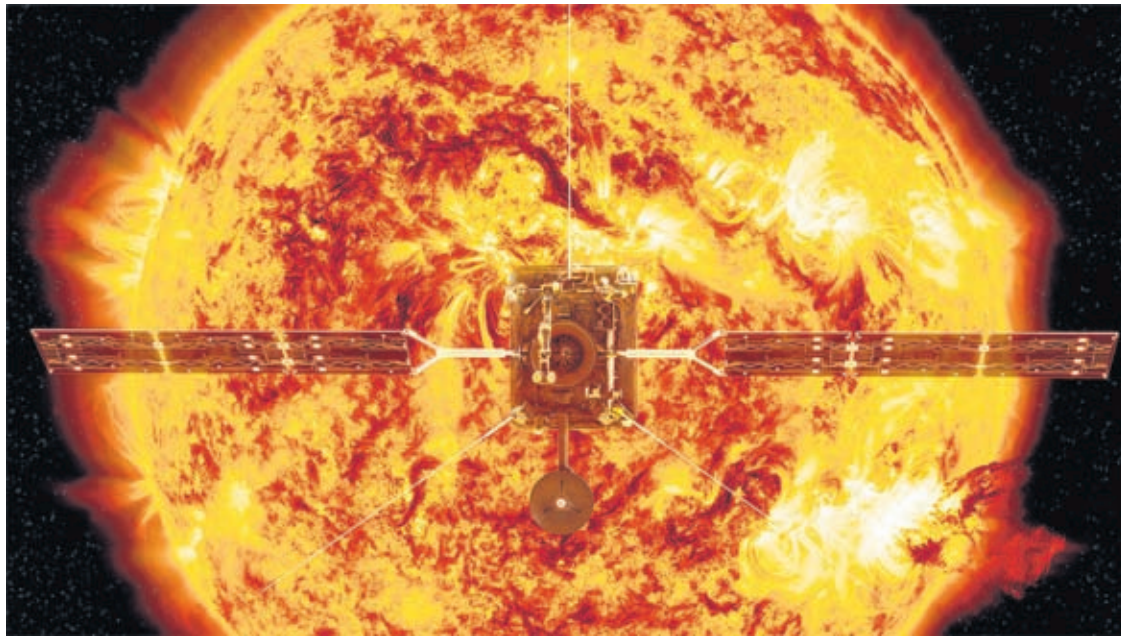
"We're on the way to the sun. Go Solar Orbiter!" said Cesar Garcia Marirrodriga, project manager for the European Space Agency. "It's a fantastic moment ... it's like, well, we're unstoppable."

The \$1.5 billion spacecraft will join NASA's Parker Solar Probe, launched 1 1/2 years ago, in coming perilously close to the sun to unveil its secrets.

While Solar Orbiter won't venture close enough to penetrate the sun's corona, or crown-like outer atmosphere, like Parker, it will maneuver into a unique out-of-plane orbit that will take it over both poles, never photographed before. Together with powerful ground observatories, the sun-staring space duo will be like an orchestra, according to Gunther Hasinger, the European Space Agency's science director. "Every instrument plays a different tune, but together they play the symphony of the sun," Hasinger said.

Solar Orbiter was made in Europe, along with nine science instruments. NASA provided the 10th instrument and arranged the late-night launch from Cape Canaveral.

Nearly 1,000 scientists and engineers from across Europe gathered with their U.S. colleagues under a full moon as United Launch Alliance's Atlas V rocket blasted off, illuminating the sky for miles around. Crowds also jammed nearby roads and beaches.



This illustration made available by NASA depicts the Solar Orbiter satellite in front of the Sun. On Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020, NASA and the European Space Agency have planned to launch the spacecraft on a mission to the sun to get close-up views of its polar regions.

The rocket was visible for four full minutes after liftoff, a brilliant star piercing the night sky. Europe's project scientist Daniel Mueller was thrilled, calling it "picture perfect." His NASA counterpart, scientist Holly Gilbert, exclaimed, "One word: Wow."

NASA declared success 1 1/2 hours later, once the Solar Orbiter's solar wings were unfurled.

Solar Orbiter — a boxy 4,000-pound (1,800-kilogram) spacecraft with spindly instrument booms and antennas — will swing past Venus in December and again next year, and then past Earth, using the planets' gravity to alter its path. Full science operations will begin in late 2021, with the first close solar encounter in 2022 and more every six months.

At its closest approach, Solar Orbiter will come within 26 million miles (42 million kilometers) of the sun, well within the orbit of Mercury. Parker Solar Probe, by contrast, has already passed within 11.6 million miles (18.6 million kilometers) of

the sun, an all-time record, and is shooting for a slim gap of 4 million miles (6 million kilometers) by 2025. But it's flying nowhere near the poles. That's where Solar Orbiter will shine.

The sun's poles are pockmarked with dark, constantly shifting coronal holes. They're hubs for the sun's magnetic field, flipping polarity every 11 years. Solar Orbiter's head-on views should finally yield a full 3-D view of the sun, 93 million miles (150 million kilometers) from our home planet.

"With Solar Observatory looking right down at the poles, we'll be able to see these huge coronal hole structures," said Nicola Fox, director of NASA's heliophysics division. "That's where all the fast solar wind comes from ... It really is a completely different view." To protect the sensitive instruments from the sun's blistering heat, engineers devised a heat shield with an outer black coating made of burned bone charcoal similar to what was used in prehistoric cave paintings. The 10-foot-by-8-foot

(3-meter-by-2.4-meter heat shield is just 15 inches (38 centimeters) thick, and made of titanium foil with gaps in between to shed heat. It can withstand temperatures up to nearly 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit (530 degrees Celsius).

Embedded in the heat shield are five peepholes of varying sizes that will stay open just long enough for the science instruments to take measurements in X-ray, ultraviolet, visible and other wavelengths.

The observations will shed light on other stars, providing clues as to the potential habitability of worlds in other solar systems.

Closer to home, the findings will help scientists better predict space weather, which can disrupt communications.

"We need to know how the sun affects the local environment here on Earth, and also Mars and the moon when we move there," said Ian Walters, project manager for Airbus Defence and Space, which designed and built the spacecraft. "We've been lucky so far the last 150 years," since a colossal solar storm last hit. "We need to predict that. We just can't wait for it to happen." □

Associated Press

Antarctica appears to have broken a heat record

By **CHRISTINA LARSON**

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The temperature in northern Antarctica hit nearly 65 degrees (18.3 degrees Celsius), a likely heat record on the continent best known for snow, ice and penguins.

The reading was taken Thursday at an Argentine research base and still needs to be verified by the World Meteorological Organization.

"Everything we have seen thus far indicates a likely legitimate record," Randall Cerveny, who researches records for the organization, said in a statement. He added that he is waiting for full data

to confirm.

The research base, called Esperanza, sits on a peninsula that juts up toward the southern tip of South America. The peninsula has warmed significantly over the past half century — almost 5.4 degrees (3 C), according to the World Meteorological Organization.

Cerveny said the unusually high temperature was likely due, in the short term, to a rapid warming of air coming down from a mountain slope.

The previous record of 63.5 degrees (17.5 C) was set in March 2015.

Climate change is heating up Antarctica and the Arctic — the Earth's polar



In this undated file photo, a lonely penguin appears in Antarctica during the southern hemisphere's summer season.

Associated Press

regions — faster than other regions of the planet. The Arctic is warming more than twice as fast as the rest of the globe, according to an annual report published in December by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. There is no similar yearly report for Antarctica. □

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24/7

'Birds of Prey' flies low on Oscars weekend with tepid debut



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Margot Robbie in a scene from "Birds of Prey."
(Claudette Barius/Warner Bros. Pictures via Associated Press)

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EN TU DISPOSITIVO MÓVIL

By JAKE COYLE AP

LOS ANGELES (Associated Press) — "Birds of Prey," the DC Comics' Harley Quinn spinoff, made a tepid debut in theaters over the weekend, opening in No. 1 but below expectations with \$33.3 million domestically, according to studio estimates Sunday.

"Birds of Prey (and the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn)," an R-rated Warner Bros. release, arrived in theaters while its star — Margot Robbie — is nominated for an Academy Award for her performance in "Bombshell" and the previous DC film, the \$1 billion-grossing "Joker," is up for a leading 11 Oscars.

But despite those lead-ins, "Birds of Prey" came in for a rocky landing. It had been expected to open around \$50 million. It fared similarly overseas, grossing an estimated \$48 million from 78 international markets.

Warner Bros. said the coronavirus impacted sales in Asia, though in South Korea, where "Birds of Prey" made \$1.9 million, it came in second to a local release. "Birds of Prey" doesn't have a China release scheduled, and "Suicide Squad" never opened there. Cinemas in the country, the world's second largest movie market, have shut down amid the coronavirus outbreak.

"Birds of Prey," the week's lone new wide release, cost approximately \$100 million to make. Cathy Yan

directs the "Suicide Squad" spinoff, which Robbie also produced. Robbie stars as Quinn, the crazed criminal who after splitting with Joker is a solo vigilante. Reviews were mostly favorable, with an 80% fresh rating on Rotten Tomatoes. Audiences gave it a B-plus CinemaScore. After three weeks atop the box office, Sony Picture's "Bad Boys for Life" dropped to second with \$12 million in its fourth weekend. The action comedy, which reunites Will Smith and Martin Lawrence, has grossed \$336 million worldwide.

Though analysts are forecasting a down year for Hollywood at the box office, the success of "Bad Boys for Life" has helped drive the year's ticket sales to an almost 10% uptick over the first five weeks of 2019, according to data firm Comscore.

Ahead of the Academy Awards, several nominees padded their ticket-sales totals. Universal's "1917," the Sam Mendes-directed World War I film, took in another \$9 million in its seventh weekend, good for third place. The film, a favorite for Sunday night, has grossed \$132.5 million domestically and \$287.4 million globally. Rian Johnson's "Knives Out," nominated for best screenplay, added \$2.4 million, bringing its North American total to \$158.9 million. Lionsgate earlier this week confirmed

a sequel to the acclaimed whodunit. Greta Gerwig's Louisa May Alcott adaptation "Little Women," up for six Oscars including best picture, also ranked in the top 10 with \$2.3 million. Its seven-week domestic total is \$102.7 million. That gives the best-picture category five \$100 million-grossing movies, including "1917," "Joker," "Ford v Ferrari" and "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood." (Counting overseas sales, "Parasite" has also surpassed \$100 million.) Netflix hasn't reported box-office data for its two best-picture contenders, "The Irishman" and "Marriage Story." Holdovers "Doolittle" (\$6.7 million in its fourth weekend) and "Jumanji: The Next Level" (\$5.5 million) rounded out the top five. Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore.

1. "Birds of Prey," \$33.3 million (\$48 million international).
2. "Bad Boys for Life," \$12 million.
3. "1917," \$9 million.
4. "Doolittle," \$6.7 million.
5. "Jumanji: The Next Level," \$5.5 million.
6. "The Gentlemen," \$4.2 million.
7. "Gretel & Hansel," \$3.5 million.
8. "Knives Out," \$2.4 million.
9. "Little Women," \$2.3 million.
10. "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker," \$2.2 million. □

South Korea's 'Parasite' wins international feature Oscar

By JOHN ROGERS Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Parasite," director Bong Joon Ho's dark comedy about wealth inequality, won the Oscar for best international feature at Sunday's Academy Awards, becoming the first South Korean film to capture an Oscar.

It was the second win of the night for Bong, who earlier shared the best original screenplay award with his "Parasite" co-writer Han Jin Won. Later in the

evening he won the best director Oscar and "Parasite" was honored for best film.

A jubilant Bong accepted the international feature award to a standing ovation, noting he had won in a category that until this year had been named best foreign film.

"I am so happy to be its first recipient under the new name," he said in Korean, adding, "I applaud and support the new direction that this change symbolizes." □



Bong Joon Ho accepts the award for best international feature film for "Parasite," from South Korea, at the Oscars on Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

(AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)

Focus turns to Latino authors amid 'American Dirt' debate

By **RUSSELL CONTRERAS**

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)

— When Oprah Winfrey endorsed the novel "American Dirt" for her book club last month, many Latinos took to social media to decry the selection for its stereotypes and caricatures. The novel about a Mexican mother and her young son fleeing to the U.S. border had been praised widely before its Jan. 21 release. But anger built over "American Dirt" by Jeanine Cummins — a writer who primarily identifies as white — and Latinos shared reading lists and pointed to recent work that went overlooked, offering "alternative" options for those who wanted to read about the Latino experience in the United States.

Across the U.S., Latino writers say they are seeing a jump in sales of those works following social media campaigns to draw more attention to Latino literature as big New York publishers face criticism for ignoring the work or not promoting it enough.

Nicolas Kanellos, founder and publisher of Houston-based Arte Publico Press, the largest publisher of His-

panic literature in the U.S., said he noticed last month some of his books by immigrant writers selling out.

"I'm not on Twitter but my staff told me some of our books were appearing on these lists as suggestions," Kanellos said. "They are gone now."

Journalist and novelist Luis Alberto Urrea, who Cummings cited as an influence, reported seeing sales of his early 2019 novel "The House of Broken Angels" jump to his surprise. It was one of the books mentioned on social media.

"Thank you. #14 on the LA Times bestseller list. Again," Urrea wrote on Facebook. "Big Angel keeps coming back."

Wendy C. Ortiz's memoir "Excavation" in California's San Fernando Valley also sold out on Amazon.

Others suggested readers buy the novel "Dominicana" by New York-born Angie Cruz and El Paso-born Sergio Troncoso's short story collection, "A Peculiar Kind of Immigrant Son" — works released last year.

PEN-award winner and Fresno, California-born writer Daniel Chacón's "Kafka in a Skirt: Stories from the Wall" also was recom-

mended as a work to understand life on the borderlands. The collection was sought out as comfort following the August 2019 killing of 22 people in a shooting that targeted Mexicans in El Paso, Texas.

In addition, Latino advocates told followers to look out for new work from memoirist and essayist Luis J. Rodriguez, who released on last month, "From Our Land to Our Land: Essays, Journeys and Imaginings From a Native Xicanx Writer."

"I've seen interest in my new book. Yeah, people are asking about it," said Matt Sedillo, a Los Angeles-based poet and author of "Mowing Leaves of Grass." He's also getting more offers to visit colleges to read his work.

Myriam Gurba, a Long Beach, California-based writer who has been a vocal critic of Cummins, said she saw "no silver lining" in the controversy of "American Dirt." She said readers should have been picking up books by Latinos writers anyway.

Gurba and a group of other Latino writers called #DignidadLiteraria met with publisher Macmillan



In this file photo taken Monday, Sept. 12, 2011, writer and activist Luis J. Rodriguez poses for a photo at his independent bookstore and community center "Tia Chucha" in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

(Flatiron Books, which published "American Dirt," is a division of Macmillan) this week to demand the publisher hire more Latino staff. Domingo Garcia, national president of the Latino civil rights group the League of United Latin American Citizens, said he didn't have a problem with non-Latinos writing about immigration. "But it's important to have a conversation with publishers about who is getting published and the lack of Latinos in the industry," he said.

In New Mexico, the state with the largest percentage of Hispanic residents, the conversation shifted

this week from "American Dirt" to Levi Romero. The bilingual Spanish-English poet was named as the state's inaugural poet laureate. He will document his travels around the state to promote poetry through a web journal and podcast. Santiago Vaquera-Vásquez, an Albuquerque-based writer and author of "One Day I'll Tell You the Things I've Seen," said he's happy Latino works are getting recognized but he hopes the interests doesn't die down. "Let's not be angry for two weeks and forget about it," Vaquera-Vásquez said. "Let's be angry for months." □

Ben Platt named Hasty Pudding's 2020 Man of the Year

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (Associated Press) — Award-

winning actor and musician Ben Platt was named 2020 Man of the Year by Harvard University's famed Hasty Pudding theater troupe on Monday.

Platt, 26, is the youngest recipient in the 54-year history of the award, handed out annually by the troupe that dates to the late 18th century.

"We're thrilled to honor Ben Platt as our 54th Man of the Year because of the incredible impact he has had on Broadway and in Hollywood at such a young age," Hasty Pudding co-producer Natalie Needle said in a statement.

"As our youngest Man of the Year, Ben has had a

remarkable career as an actor and musician."

Platt will receive his pudding pot at a celebratory roast on Friday.

A performance of "Mean Ghouls," Hasty Pudding's second production including women in the cast, will follow.

Platt won a Tony in 2017 for "Dear Evan Hansen," while the cast recording took home the Grammy for best musical theater album, as well as a Daytime Emmy for their performance on "The Today Show."

Platt is also known for his role as Benji Applebaum in the films "Pitch Perfect" and "Pitch Perfect 2."

He is currently filming the second season of the Netflix series "The Politician," which last season earned

him a Golden Globe nomination.

He also stars in the film "Run This Town," which premiered at last year's SXSW Film Festival and will be released this spring. It was recently announced that he will star in the film adaptation of the Stephen Sondheim musical "Merrily We Roll Along."

Also a musician, Platt's debut album "Sing To Me Instead" was released last year.

Former winners of the Man of the Year include Tom Hanks, Robert De Niro and Harrison Ford. Last year's Man of the Year was Milo Ventimiglia.

Hasty Pudding's 2020 Woman of the Year, Elizabeth Banks, was honored last week. □



In this Jan. 25, 2020 file photo, Ben Platt poses in Beverly Hills, Calif. On Monday, Feb. 3, Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals announced Platt as their 2020 Man of the Year.

Associated Press

Obama-backed documentary on Ohio factory wins Academy Award

By MARK KENNEDY

AP Entertainment Writer
NEW YORK (Associated Press) —

The Oscar for best feature-length documentary has gone to "American Factory," the first documentary released by Barack and Michelle Obama's production company.

The Netflix film is about an Ohio auto glass factory that is run by a Chinese investor. It explores many issues, including the rights of workers, globalization and automation.

"American Factory" beat out "Honeyland," "The Cave," "The Edge of Democracy" and "For Sama." Steven Bognar and Julia Reichert, directors of "American Factory" acknowledged the work of their fellow nominees on Sunday.

"We are inspired by you



This image released by Netflix shows a worker at Fuyao, a glass manufacturer in China, in a scene from the Oscar-nominated documentary "American Factory."

(Netflix via AP)

guys," said Reichert.

Barack Obama in a tweet Sunday congratulated the filmmakers "for telling such a complex, moving story about the very human

consequences of wrenching economic change. Glad to see two talented and downright good people take home the Oscar for Higher Ground's first re-

lease." The film is about the Fuyao plant, bought by Chinese industrialist Cao Dewang, which employs some 2,200 American and 200 Chinese workers. The

film gives a close-up look at how the cultures adjust to one another.

Tensions rise when the factory doesn't initially meet production goals, culminating in a bitter fight over the right to unionize.

Reichert noted that her film is about an Ohio plant but it could be from anywhere "people put on a uniform, punch a clock, trying to make their families have a better life. Working people have it harder and harder these days. We believe that things will get better when workers of the world unite."

The name of the Obamas' company, Higher Ground, flashes by in the opening credits, but the Obamas themselves aren't mentioned anywhere.

Neither is President Donald Trump. □

Mexican art critic shatters contemporary piece at art fair

By AMY GUTHRIE undefined
MEXICO CITY (Associated Press) —

An art critic has destroyed a contemporary piece at Mexico's premiere art fair, setting off a spirited debate about what constitutes art.

Critic Avelina Lésper said she accidentally shattered the installation Saturday at the Zona Maco art fair in Mexico City when she placed an empty soda can near it to express her disdain for the piece: a sheet of glass with a stone, soccer ball and other random objects suspended inside.

The display was by Mexican artist Gabriel Rico, who contrasts objects made by humans, such as tennis balls, with objects found in nature, such as feathers and rocks.

"It was like the work heard my comment and felt what I thought of it," Lésper said in a video statement for Milenio, a Mexican media group that publishes her columns. "The work shattered into pieces and collapsed and fell on the floor." Lésper said she was then told the piece was valued at \$20,000. Accident or

not, the gallery displaying the work criticized Lésper's behavior as unprofessional. "Lésper coming too close to the work to place a soda can on it and take a picture as criticism without a doubt caused the destruction," OMR gallery said in a statement via Instagram.

The gallery said the critic's behavior showed an "enormous lack of professionalism and respect."

OMR said Rico's work is highly sought by collectors and art institutions at the moment.

Alfonso Miranda, director of the Soumaya art museum in Mexico, described the incident via Twitter as a "tragedy."

Others took to social media to applaud the destruction as a performance piece, and to pan the sale of art that consists of used and found objects.

Lésper said she suggested the gallery leave the piece shattered, to show its evolution. When they rejected that idea, she said she offered to repair it.

The gallery said it would get in touch with the artist before announcing next steps. □

Almost-EGOTs Elton John, Hildur Guðnadóttir win music Oscars

By MESFIN FEKADU Associated Press Music Writer

Twenty-five years after winning his first Oscar, Elton John has picked up his second at the 2020 Academy Awards, where "Joker" composer Hildur Guðnadóttir marked a historic night for female musicians.

John won his second best original song award for "(I'm Gonna) Love Me Again" from his biopic "Rocketman," sharing the honor with longtime collaborator Bernie Taupin. John won an Oscar with Tim Rice for "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" from the original "The Lion King" at the 1995 Academy Awards.

"Thank you to Bernie, who has been the constant thing in my life when I was screwed up, when I was normal — he's always been there for me," John said onstage.

"This is just justification for 53 years of just hammering out and doing what we do," Taupin said.

John and Taupin beat out Diane Warren, Randy



Elton John, left, and Bernie Taupin, winners of the award for best original song for "(I'm Gonna) Love Me Again" from "Rocketman", pose in the press room at the Oscars on Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

(Photo by Jordan Strauss/Invision/AP)

Newman, Cynthia Erivo and the husband-wife duo Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez to win the prize.

John, 72, has won a Tony Award and five Grammys, and only needs an Emmy to join the elite clubs of EGOTs. Guðnadóttir, 37, is in a similar position: In just six short months, the classically trained cellist from Iceland has become an Emmy, Grammy and Oscar winner. She picked up best original score Sunday for "Joker" and

she joins a small group of women to win the prize for scoring music, including Marilyn Bergman, Rachel Portman and Anne Dudley, who was the last woman to win the honor for "The Full Monty" at the 1998 show. She received a standing ovation for close to a minute from the audience. "To the girls, to the women, to the mothers, to the daughters who hear the music bubbling within, please speak up," she said. "We need to hear your voices." □

Carolina Herrera brings big bows, pops of color and drama



The Carolina Herrera collection is modeled during Fashion Week in New York, Monday, Feb. 10, 2020.

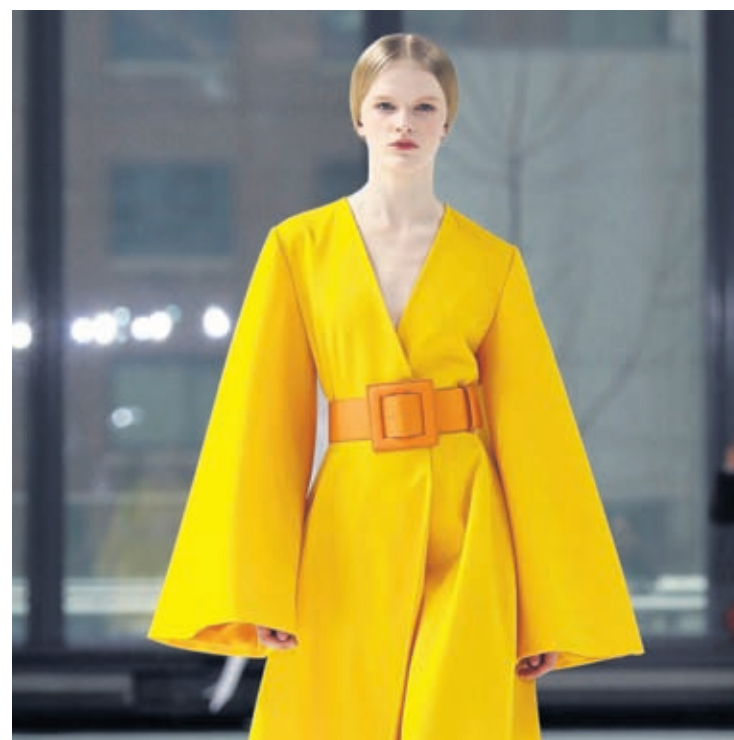
**By KELLI KENNEDY
Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — It was all about drama at Carolina Herrera's show Monday with signature oversized bows, sweeping gowns with long trains and bright pops of color contrasted with optic whites and jet blacks. Designer Wes Gordon's flirty tiered ruffle gowns stood out even more in bold blues, greens and yellows. But he also added more unconventional color pairings, upping the sophistication with red and pink and clementine orange mixed with aquamarine.

"My main goal at Herrera is to bring as much color to the house as possible. It's one of my main goals in life. I think the world needs as much beautiful color as it can possibly get," Gordon said in a backstage interview during New York Fashion week. The show attracted a handful of young Hollywood celebrities, including Dominican singer Natti Natasha, "Liv and Maddie" actress Dove Cameron and "Girls" star Zosia Mamet. The "Sin Pijama" singer Natti Natasha, who walked in the The Blonds show over the weekend, said she loves at-

tending shows and seeing how a designer "brings new moments to fashion." "Fashion has grown so much that I feel like you dare more now to do different things," she told The Associated Press. Cameron says she's "a massive fan" of the brand. "It's so beautiful, so feminine. It's got a beautiful structure to it," she said. The show comes on the heels of a big Oscar night where the brand dressed Leonardo DiCaprio's girlfriend Camila Morrone in a stunning strapless, white gown with a corseted-style bodice.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)



The Carolina Herrera collection is modeled during Fashion Week in New York, Monday, Feb. 10, 2020.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)



The Carolina Herrera collection is modeled during Fashion Week in New York, Monday, Feb. 10, 2020.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Gordon said it was a last minute decision. "You never know. There's a lot of anxiety. There's a lot of options right up until the last second ... things happen, things change, quite often they don't work out, but that's just part of the process." In the collection presented Monday, Herrera's signature bows studded the looks — tied around the wrists, on dresses at the nape of the neck or dramatically on the lower back — all with elegant hanging edges. Dresses and blouses with floral cutouts were woven throughout the collection. "They all come back to conveying drama, and we are all about drama at Herrera," Gordon said. The majority of the models wore flats. Gordon paired sophisticated evening dresses with casual slides.

"The old fashion rules have all gone away," said the 33-year-old designer. "It's about dressing for you, dressing your personality." The show brought an eclectic mix of celebrities including former Miami Heat star Chris Bosh, former Vogue editor Andre Leon Talley and theater producer Jordan Roth. "Fashion week is fun and insane and every year it feels like a whirlwind," Mamet said. Most of the models sported a minimal makeup look and somewhat austere, pulled-back hair. But Herrera just made its first foray into makeup with a line that includes 36 shades of glamorous lipsticks. "If you think of that iconic Andy Warhol portrait of Mrs. Herrera, it's the lips, those fabulous red lips," Gordon said. □